US House GOP leaders endorse Demapan candidacy. PAGE 7
HANMI occupancy at 81 pct. in September. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Reinstatement of charges vs ex-DPS chief, ex-cop denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court turned down yesterday the CNMI government's petition to order the Superior Court to reinstate the charge of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree against former Department of Public Safety commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero and former police officer Jesse Salas Concepcion.

In the same decision, the CNMI high court also denied the government's request for the justices to order Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja to recuse Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho from the case.

See DENIED on Page 4

CHC unveils new equipment, 'Cadillac for babies'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. unveiled yesterday several new equipment for the Commonwealth Health Center worth a total of $1.8 million, one of which is referred to as the "Cadillac for babies."

The new equipment includes four infant ventilators, seven new cardiac monitors, and several other equipment along with repairs for the radiology system, and a new maternal and fetal monitoring system software, among others.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, who showed the new hospital equipment and repairs to

See CADILLAC on Page 4

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is shown one of the improved programs for the Commonwealth Health Center as Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña and Rep. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and House vice speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan) look on. ERWIN ENCINARES

GOP moves forward after Barcinas switch

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Barcinas

The NMI Republican Party has already moved forward, despite a recent decision by Rep. Donald C. Barcinas to jump ship and switch his allegiance to the gubernatorial bid of former governor Juan N. Babauta.

Party president James Ada said that it was unfortunate that Barcinas decided to leave the party with

See GOP on Page 4

CEC to finalize designation of polls for early voting

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The polling place for early voting on Rota will no longer be at the Department of Public Safety, while the polling place for early voting on Tinian may also likely not be at DPS.

Igitol

Commonwealth Election Commission administrative officer Kayla Igitol, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, disclosed that the designated polling place for early voting on Rota is the Northern Marianas

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INSIDE

NATION
The most powerful hurricane to hit Florida's Panhandle killed at least two people.
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Turkish media says video shows team of alleged Saudi assassins.
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LIFE & STYLE
A coroner now reports that Verne Troyer died of suicide by alcohol intoxication.
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Local

Non-profit continues pursuit of Earhart monument

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A non-profit organization that is pushing to erect a monument on Saipan in honor of the legendary Amelia Earhart continues to champion the project.

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Monument Inc., headed by Rep. Donald Barcinas (Ind-Saipan), continues to pursue its goal of erecting a memorial monument for Earhart, in honor of those who claim to have seen her on Saipan.

According to Barcinas, the group is looking at a site in Garapan for the monument, in close proximity to both the Old Japanese Jailhouse and the NMI Museum.

"…A lot of people have witnessed that she was jailed there during the Japanese time," Barcinas noted.

He further noted that the non-profit organization is currently working on a $12,000 budget obtained from donations. "So far we have $12,000 …We need to build up to $200,000."

Josephina Blanco, a 93-year-old who claims that she caught a glimpse of Earhart in the Tanapag Harbor back in 1937, is adamant that Earhart crash-landed somewhere near the CNMI.

"Her testimony is a living testimony. She is a [piece] of living history, and we are very proud of that and we are honored to have her here," Barcinas said.

Blanco was previously featured in several books pertaining to the mysterious disappearance of Earhart, who was the first female aviator to have flown over the Atlantic ocean solo.

Back in February this year, the group announced to the Rotary Club of Saipan that they would be erecting an 18-foot monument in memory of the aviatrix near Airport Road.

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Paulino, Palacios promise to put NMI first

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas expressed his full confidence that Jovita SN Paulino and Bernadita C. Palacios will not only put the interest of the municipality but the entire CNMI first as they perform their separate duties.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres swore in Paulino, who is going to represent Tinian on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board, and Palacios to the Civil Service Commission yesterday on Capital Hill.

San Nicolas said that Paulino would "bring continuity as she had already served at the board for a year and a half of the last term. "Now, she's giving a full term of four years."

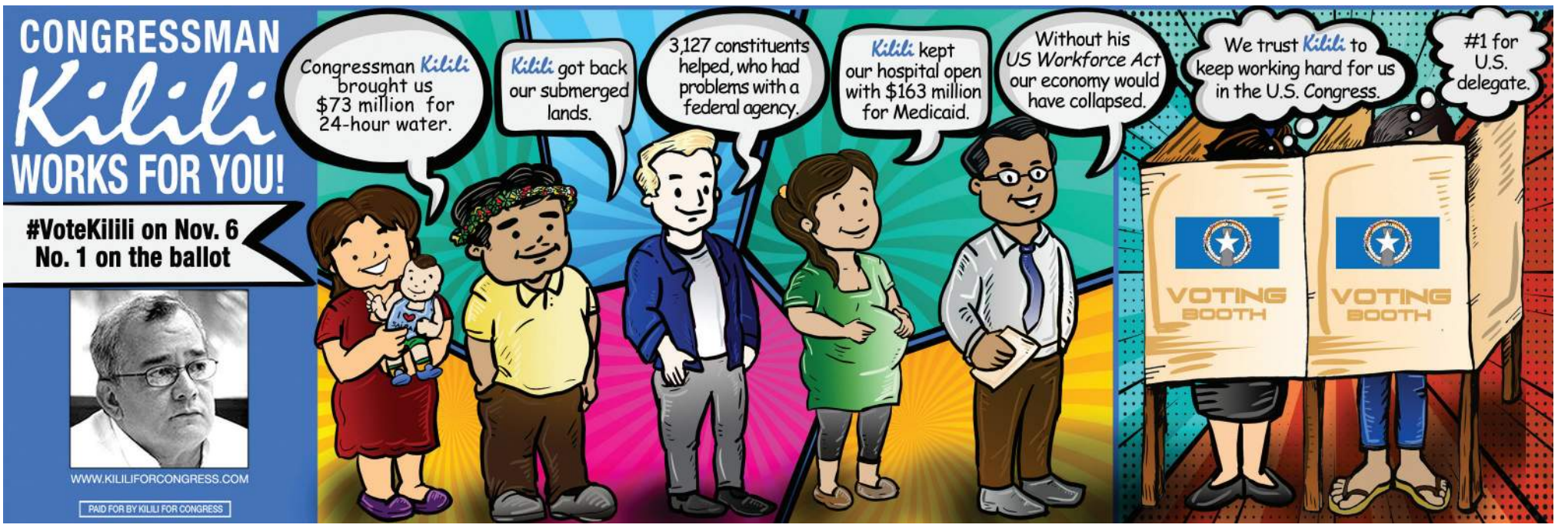
Paulino said she can't wait to get back to work with the CUC board. "We have lots of projects lined up for all the three islands."

San Nicolas also had kind words for Palacios. "She brings a wealth of experience. …Having worked with her for many years, I have full confidence that she will make a huge difference on the commission."

Palacios said she was also grateful for Torres' trust and confidence as she begins her new duties with the commission. "I'll do my best not only for Tinian but the entire CNMI that services will be fairly provided to all government employees." ***(Jon Perez)***

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fourth left, joins Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, right, and Tinian representatives to the Civil Service Commission Bernardita Palacios, second left, and Jovita Paulino in yesterday's swearing in ceremony on Capital Hill.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‘Mariana Resort shutdown could’ve been avoided’

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) believes the shutdown of Mariana Resort & Spa and its facilities could have been avoided had the government been more proactive and aggressive in its negotiation with Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd.

Guerrero, the House Commerce and Tourism chairman, said the CNMI government is at the losing end of the closure of Mariana Resort and its surrounding facilities.

“We should be mindful that it is not only the employees that are going to be affected. The business gross revenue tax and hotel occupancy tax are also affected. When you shut down a facility like a hotel resort, there’s no money coming in,” said Guerrero. “So, I don’t know how much dollar amount would that impact in the next fiscal year budget. With the absence of the operations of this resort, nobody knows when it is going to open again.”

The 55,000-square meter property, previously leased by Kan Pacific, is being broken up, with separate requests for proposal for the Mariana Resort & Spa, Marianas Country Club, and its Olympic-size swimming pool.

Guerrero said the Department of Public Lands must expedite the process so the property won’t turn into another La Fiesta. “I say that this is going to turn into another La Fiesta. For one, we should have planned this way ahead of time before it shut down.”

“Why are we waiting up to the end of the lease agreement to be always rushing in trying to fix this? As to the reference that it won’t be another La Fiesta, I say it is going to be another La Fiesta if DPL does not move expeditiously.”

He said DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo has the final say in her department. “I think the DPL secretary should be mindful that she makes the decisions. Not the lawyer or the [Attorney General] that represents the DPL. She should listen to herself on what is the best interest. The counsel is just there to guide you forward. That’s why you are placed in an office to run it, because you know how to run and operate it in a business environment. Lawyers are there to guide you.”

Guerrero said the government could have acted proactively on the issue. “To have such a big investment sitting there now while we’re fixing who is going to operate the hotel, golf course, pool… this waiting game should have been taken cared of. I understand the administration is looking at every aspect, but we need to be proactive.”

“Start thinking before the lease agreement expires, put everything in motion, and not only think about the current operator if they are willing to continue. Who is going to be the new investor? What will happen to the employees? You don’t need to wait at the last minute then shut it down and then what?”

Guerrero added the company that would be awarded the property would have to spend more before they re-open the facilities since the property had been abandoned for almost two weeks now.

“Right now, they have to prepare separate concession agreements for the hotel, golf, and pool. I think that DPL needs to fast track this. If a facility shuts down for a few days, weeks, months, or years, obviously all of this would be costly for the new investor because it is sitting idle.”

“You got to spruce up the facility again, since there’s no continuity in maintaining the rooms. Operating a hotel is expensive; that’s why they have housekeeping, grounds crew, and building maintenance just to have somebody to maintain the facilities.”

He said that right now there’s a security management that is at the Mariana Resort property. “I understand that it is just to maintain the facilities and make sure that there’s no vandalism or [stealing] whatever the remaining contents of the hotel.”

“But it’s not cheap. That’s money that’s coming out of DPL. I don’t think that’s paying $500 a month for security. They need to make sure that there’s security in place and maintain the facility.”

DENIED

From Page 1

Justice pro tem F. Philip Carbullido issued the opinion. Associate Justice John A. Manglona and Justice pro tem Timothy H. Bellas concurred.

The justices said they find Camacho’s determination logical.

In 2016, Camacho issued separate orders that dismissed without prejudice the charges against Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion.

Dismissal without prejudice means the Office of the Attorney General may re-file the charges.

Camacho found no probable cause as to the charge of conspiracy to commit sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree as the government has produced no evidence that Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion conspired to specifically have sex with a minor.

Camacho also found no probable cause for the two counts of misconduct in public office as the government has presented no evidence that the alleged offense occurred.

Camacho earlier also dismissed without prejudice the charge of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree filed each against Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion. The judge said the government failed to prove essential element of the offense.

The government then filed a petition for a writ of mandamus before the high court.

The OAG alleges that Camacho incorrectly performed his role in a probable cause hearing and determined the defendants’ position was outside the scope of a statute as a matter of law.

In denying the government’s petition, the justices said in order to determine whether a customer of a prostitute is substantially similar to a babysitter, Camacho listed typical attributes of a babysitter.

The justices said after comparison of Deleon Guerrero’s and Concepcion’ position to that of a babysitter, Camacho concluded their position was simply too general to assert any opinion of authority, as such a comparison would allow “any adult to occupy a position of authority…”

Additionally, the justices said, Camacho based his analysis on a reasonable interpretation of the Legislature’s intent: addressing “adults using their positions of authority to coerce minor victims into having sex.”

The justices said although Camacho’s order admittedly does not embody a pinnacle of clarity, it purported to analyze the Commonwealth’s unique argument under their limited guidance as to the statutes.

“It keenly hinted at the instruction we now provide: that an authoritative role is a requirement separate from the requirement of undue influence or coercion within the incident’s factual circumstances,” the justices said.

In this case, the justices pointed out, regardless of how much coercion, intimidation, or force was present, there was no role or position abused by Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion.

Rather, the justices said, Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion encountered the victim solely for the purpose of receiving sex services, with no other pretext to their relationship.

The justices said Camacho’s interpretation effectuated all parts of the statute and instilled meaning into the substantial similarity requirement, two aspects in which the government’s interpretation was lacking.

As such, the justices said, Camacho’s reasoning was reasonable, and not erroneous.

Manglona further wrote as to the element of position of authority as it relates to Deleon Guerrero’s and Concepcion’s position as police officers.

Manglona highlighted defendants’ role in law enforcement as the case involves serious allegations in which none other than the DPS commissioner and a DPS officer engaged in sexual acts with a minor.

Manglona said such an incident did not just occur once—Guerrero was alleged to have had sex with the minor on two occasions, while Concepcion had sex with the minor victim on “at least four occasions.”

Manglona said due to the statute’s construction and heightened standards police officers are charged with upholding, he could construe the statute as according law enforcement officers a per se position of authority.

“In other words, I find Sections 1317(5) and 1306 prohibit police officers’ sexual involvement with minors as a matter of law—regardless of whether the minor is aware of the officer’s occupation,” Manglona said.

CEC

From Page 1

College instructional site.

Igitol said Rota DPS cannot accommodate the polling place as they don’t have spare room for early voting.

She said it is likely the same case will happen on Tinian for early voting, but that they don’t have the final decision yet.

Early voting on Rota and Tinian were done at DPS on both islands in past elections.

Early voting for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will commence on Oct. 30.

Igitol said the designation for polling places for the three islands will be on Oct. 22.

She said the CEC board will finalize the polling places at their meeting on Thursday, Oct. 18, at 1:30pm, at the CEC’s conference room in Susupe.

Igitol said everyone is welcome to attend the meeting to voice their concerns.

GOP

From Page 1

the election just less than a month away.

Barcinas, a Precinct 3 lawmaker, announced in an impromptu press conference that he has left the GOP.

“It’s unfortunate that [Barcinas] decided to defect after being endorsed by the [local GOP] and certified by the Commonwealth Election Commission as a candidate of the party. All ballots have been printed and many of our off-island supporters have already mailed them,” said Ada.

In declaring his support for Babauta and running mate Dr. Rita A. Sablan, Barcinas has made the independent field more crowded as they now have seven candidates running for the six spots at stake for Precinct 3.

Barcinas joins Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez, Luis S. Tilipao, David C. Sablan, Vicente C. Camacho, Stanley Torres, and Mariano DLG Fajardo, who are also gunning for the six spots in Precinct 3.

Reps. Blas Jonathan T. Attao, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, and Jose I. Itibus are running for reelection under the Republican Party with former representative Ralph N. Yumul aiming to return to the 21st Legislature under the GOP.

The local GOP president wishes Barcinas well. “We are moving forward and we respect Barcinas’ decision. While he is no longer a candidate of the party, we wish him luck.”

The GOP board has also assured that the local party remains united. “All [GOP] candidates remain united in working toward securing the people’s victory to ensure that the foundation of the progress that we see today are supported with continuing progress for a much stronger Commonwealth and toward a greater quality of life for our people.”

“We ask for your continuing support and vote of confidence for the Torres-Palacios, Demapan for [U.S.] Congress, and the entire Republican candidates.”

Focus on work ahead

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) said the party must move forward since there’s still a lot of work to do for the people of the CNMI. “At the end of the day, we must all focus on the work at hand for the greater good of our people. We may agree to disagree but we make our people first no matter what party we are in.”

“Barcinas’ decision to part ways with the Republican Party was disappointing [but] it has no impact whatsoever on the leadership’s work and I wish him well.”

He added that he learned of Barcinas leaving the local GOP and switching his allegiance to the Babauta-Sablan ticket from a social media post.

The Precinct 3 lawmaker held the impromptu press conference at the house of the former governor in Gualo Rai to declare his support for Babauta’s third attempt to reclaim the CNMI’s top post.

Barcinas said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signing into law the marijuana legalization bill was the last straw that made him decide to jump ship and move to the Babauta-Sablan ticket.

CADILLAC

From Page 1

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and other officials, said the hospital was long overdue for upgrades in its healthcare equipment. For this tranche, the money came from the passage of a Saipan local law.

“This is a 1986 building; some of these equipment came with this building,” Muña said.

She referred to the infant ventilators as the “Cadillac for babies” since the units could take over the functions that are usually provided by other equipment in the hospital and provide nurses all kinds of information in one station.

“The idea is to improve patient care and create efficiency,” she said. “…It’s a great improvement, and I am excited.”

Torres, along with Rep. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), and vice speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan), were part of a short tour of the hospital.

“…Through the process of bidding, finally we got the equipment here,” said Torres in an interview yesterday. “I am very impressed and I give kudos to the CHCC CEO for keeping up to date with the things we need in the facility. … Some of these equipment are state-of-the-art that even some of our neighboring islands don’t have. This just shows that we are making the priorities here and what we need.

That includes a new CT scan that is on its way to the hospital, along with training to familiarize handlers of its operation.

Kilili thanks Torres and Demapan for supporting parole-in-place extension

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) commended Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) yesterday for supporting another two-year extension of parole-in-place for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and other persons not eligible for visas. Torres reportedly wrote Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen requesting the extension and Demapan introduced a joint resolution.

"I believe this is the first time that a governor or the Legislature has supported the parole-in-place policy in this way," Sablan said.

Parole was first granted in November 2011 to cover people whom Sablan wanted to provide with a pathway to green cards. He had introduced legislation, H.R. 1466, to do this; and he asked U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to allow those people to remain legally in the Marianas while Congress considered the bill. He also made a pitch for parole when meeting with President Obama at the White House on Sept. 23 that year.

The groups covered include the immediate relatives of persons granted lawful permanent resident status under Commonwealth immigration law, the spouses or parents of U.S. citizens, and so-called stateless individuals.

"Unfortunately, people in the Fitial administration worked aggressively to kill H.R. 1466," Sablan said. "But I was able to convince USCIS to keep the parole-in-place policy alive. They renewed it for two years in 2012, 2014, and 2016, while President Obama was in office.

"Now, the question is: how will the Trump administration handle this discretionary policy?"

Sablan was also successful at getting USCIS to use its discretionary authority to grant humanitarian parole for in-home caregivers in the Marianas. The caregivers were another group that were permitted by Commonwealth immigration law but did not fit into the federal Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker (CW) requirements.

"According to USCIS, there are a little over 3,000 applications for this special parole status. About 1,300 have been approved," Sablan reports. "But the Trump administration has also already denied over 1,400 requests.

"The Obama administration was more generous in approvals of humanitarian parole."

During the Obama administration, Sablan typically received a call from the USCIS director on or around Thanksgiving, letting him know that the parole policy would be continued for another two years. ***(PR)***

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan World Resort interns pose for a group photo after receiving their certificates of completion for the English Language Development course. Also in photo are Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute staff and Saipan World Resort executives.

19 SWR interns complete English language course

Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute recently presented certificates of completion to 19 Saipan World Resort interns who completed 24 hours of training during their English Language Development Course at NMC.

During the course students discussed their daily routines and responsibilities while working in the hotel. They were asked to describe personal experiences while carrying out their duties and to demonstrate an appropriate level of understanding while communicating with an English-speaking guest.

"We are glad to collaborate with Saipan World Resort again to provide training activities that help expand the language skills of their staff," said NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico.

The hotel interns are from the Philippines, Korea, Russia, and China.

Students learned how to improve their workplace English conversation skills, which was taught by instructor Chavel Green. The classes began on Sept. 5, 2018, and were completed on Oct. 3, 2018.

NMC's Community Development Institute is a program that offers specialized courses and customized trainings in order to meet both the professional development and personal enrichment needs of the community.

For more information about NMC's Community Development Institute, contact the CDI Office at 237-6802/05/10 or email the CDI program manager Les Ogumoro-Uludong at les.ogumoro@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Rosary rally this Saturday

In celebration of the 101st anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima and the "miracle of the sun" in Fatima, on Oct. 13,1917, Dr. Celia Lamkin, rosary rally captain for the CNMI, is inviting everyone to join the 2018 Public Square Rosary Rally that will be held on Saturday, Oct. 13, from 11:30am to 1pm, at the Oleai Pavilion on Beach Road in San Jose. The actual rosary rally starts at noon, near the time when the miracle of the sun took place in Fatima in 1917. This is the eight year that Lamkin will be a Rosary Rally Captain since 2011. The first public square rosary rally was held in front of the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Susupe. ***(PR)***

Lions club holds cleanup

The Saipan Alliance Lions Club, one of the six Lions clubs in the CNMI, is advocating for a cleaner environment, starting with a beach cleanup last Oct. 7 from Sugar Dock to Chalan Kanoa beach.

A total of 17 members participated in the cleanup and collected about 15 bags of trash, according to Saipan Alliance Lions Club director Ester Yamson.

On Saipan, there are six Lions Clubs and all Lions clubs are autonomous, which means that each club is responsible for its own events. The clubs can also work as one, as Region 2 District 204.

To those interested in joining the Saipan Alliance Lions Clubs, call June Alciso at 483-6996, Bhiya Canadalla at 285-6899, or club secretary Donna Fronda at 788-4108. Interested individuals can also visit www.lionsclubs.org for more details. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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US House GOP leaders endorse Demapan candidacy

The National Republican Congressional Committee endorsed yesterday the candidacy of Rep. Angel Aldan Demapan (R-Saipan) to represent the CNMI in the U.S. House of Representatives.

House Speaker Paul Ryan said: "Angel has a successful track record of service to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and I know he will be an effective advocate for the Commonwealth. He possesses the skill set and the passion to be a powerful voice in Congress and I'm proud to support his campaign."

House Republican Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said: "I am very impressed by the experience Angel Demapan brings to his campaign to be the congressman representing the people of the CNMI. His leadership and ability to understand the challenges facing our country show me that Angel is the right person to be the voice of the CNMI in Congress."

House Republican Majority Whip Steve Scalise said: "I am excited to endorse Angel Demapan's bid to become delegate for the [CNMI]. Given Angel's history of service to his community, I'm confident that he will work tirelessly on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth to ensure their voices and concerns are heard loud and clear."

National Republican Congressional Committee chair Steve Stivers said: "As chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, I am responsible for helping recruit Republicans to run for Congress. When I heard about [Angel Demapan], I knew right away that the CNMI was sending one of their very best to Congress. I wholeheartedly endorse Angel's campaign and look forward to serving with him for many years to come."

Demapan

The NRCC believes that Demapan is the right choice for the CNMI in Congress, saying his campaign mantra— "I will be your loyal voice to Washington, not Washington's voice to the CNMI"—is exactly what the people of the CNMI need.

Demapan gave thanks to the endorsement.

"Before I decided to run for U.S. Congress, I have made every effort to build relationships with key leaders in the U.S. Congress for the benefit of our Commonwealth," said Demapan. "I am sincerely grateful for the endorsement. …These fine leaders are aware of our unique challenges in the Commonwealth and they have shown us their concern for the Marianas by swiftly moving Chairman Rob Bishop's NMI US Workforce Act."

"With a Republican White House over the next two years and signs that Republicans will maintain control of Congress, we have a tremendous opportunity to reap more benefits by electing a Republican from the Marianas," added Demapan.

"We shouldn't be swayed by the threats of seniority. We don't have to look very far. [Delegate] Radewagen, a Republican, broke the longstanding tenure of seniority held by her Democrat predecessor, and it resulted in many more tangible benefits for American Samoa. [Delegate] Radewagen was also able to arrange a visit by Vice President Mike Pence to unveil the new name of their Veterans Affairs healthcare facility—a facility we still do not have in the Marianas after 10 years in Congress," said Demapan. "And in Guam, voters there also decided they've had enough with seniority by putting an end to the 16-year term of [Delegate] Madeleine Bordallo, who lost her primary election bid to 37-year old Guam Sen. Michael San Nicolas."

"So you see, there is hope for our future. Our people do not deserve to be suppressed with the bare minimum all for the sake of 'seniority.' We deserve more than settling with the status quo. We deserve representation that will be fueled by new energy and a fresh voice; representation we can believe in," added Demapan. ***(PR)***

HEALTH CENTER TALKS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman Community Health Center executive director Vince Castro, left, talk with Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. John Paul Sablan, center, and House of Representatives Speaker Rafael Demapan, right, on the next steps for the proposed Susupe Community Health Center.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Bank of Hawaii is a patron sponsor of the 2018 Field of Heroes. In photo, from left to right, TanHoldings vice president for corporate affairs/human resources Catherine Attao, Bank of Hawaii officer and assistant branch manager Joseph Fujihira, TanHoldings community relations director Carline B. Sablan, Bank of Hawaii vice president, and branch manager Rose Sumor and Tan Siu Lin Foundation administrative officer Mel Naputi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nora Sablan, health plan manager for TakeCare, together with administrative assistant Leilani Pangelinan and referral coordinator Melanie Santos, present a check for TakeCare's sponsorship of the 2018 Field of Heroes to event organizers Catherine Attao, TanHoldings vice president for corporate affairs/human resources, and Carline Sablan, TanHoldings community relations director.

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HANMI occupancy at 81 pct. in September

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 81.24 percent average occupancy rate among 11-member hotels in September 2018.

The figure reflects a 10-percent decrease compared to September 2017.

However, average room rates were higher than last year at $141.96 compared to $132.52 last September. The figure is also the highest September average room rate ever recorded by HANMI.

A total of 58,321 of 71,790 available room nights sold in September 2018, compared to 62,475 of 69,550 available room nights sold over the same period last year.

September 2018 marked the first month that the now closed Mariana Resort & Spa was not included among averaged hotels, marking a loss of 124 hotel rooms.

"As an association and major partners of Commonwealth tourism economy, we are saddened at the closure of Mariana Resort & Spa," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "Not only has the Commonwealth lost one of its oldest investors, but also the job opportunities and tax revenue that Mariana Resort provided. We are still hoping that the government can see its way in the long-term interest of the Commonwealth, to more strategic decisions that will keep hotels open and running. We thank Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres for recently giving us the opportunity to dialogue with him on these and other matters. Occupancy is down, but room rates are the highest ever. Time is ticking for several hotels with expiring public land leases, and we have been asking for the opportunity to negotiate renewals."

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects.

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical reports are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan. ***(PR)***

'Marijuana remains illegal in the CNMI'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres reminded the community yesterday that marijuana use is still illegal in the CNMI, despite the enactment of a measure last month that lifted the prohibition.

The administration again issued the clarification after *Saipan Tribune* received reports of several marijuana-related incidents in schools the past few weeks.

Torres

The administration said in a statement that they have not received any formal incident report from the CNMI Public School System or the Department of Public Safety.

Still, they reminded the public to follow the law. "At the end of the day, PSS knows the law and should report these incidents to [DPS] and the Office of the Attorney General."

"The governor and DPS have formally come out in official statements emphasizing that it is illegal to recreationally use marijuana until the regulations are promulgated and published. [Also] the law forbids the distribution of marijuana in that form anyway."

There have been unconfirmed reports that students were found in possession of marijuana when a surprise bag inspection was held, while another incident involved a student getting sick after eating brownies laced with marijuana.

Public Law 20-66 or the Taulamwarr Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018 has a provision that a local cannabis commission, which would regulate the new industry, must first be formed and the rules to be promulgated before formally legalizing the use of pot.

The commission needs to be formed within 30 days; the governor would name two appointees, with the municipal mayors of the Northern Islands, Rota, and Tinian also submitting their nominees.

The nominees need to be confirmed by their respective legislative delegations of the four municipalities. Once cleared, the commission then has 180 days to formulate the rules and regulations in the commercial, personal, and recreational use of cannabis.

The law also states that there are places that marijuana use is prohibited, like in government buildings, school or school property, whether public or private, the Northern Marianas College or in any of its properties unless officials may permit marijuana possession or use in its premises for research purposes.

Residents living within 500 feet of schools, hospital, or church are also not allowed to be given the permit to plant marijuana in their homes. Violators will be strictly fined and prosecuted.

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Ukulele Festival to give out 50 free scholarships

Local businesses and CNMI government agencies are stepping up to support the 4th Annual Marianas Ukulele Festival, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 20, 2018, from 2pm to 9pm at the Marianas Business Plaza.

This outpouring of support has enabled the festival to give away 50 free scholarships for ukulele lessons, which will be drawn from all those who register for the scholarships.

Anyone interested in signing up for the scholarship must come to the festival and fill out a registration form.

The scholarships may be redeemed at any recognized ukulele instructional program, such as: the CNMI Arts Council, Carolinian Affairs Office, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and Ed Johnson. Many terrific prizes, including 15 ukuleles, will also be raffled off at the event.

The festival has drawn the support of the Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs/Arts Council, T Galleria DFS, Island Training Solutions, IT&E, Marianas Business Plaza, Burger Comer Magliari, Bridge Capital, Marianas Medical Center, Robert T. Torres Law Office, Joeten Enterprises, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Kinpachi Restaurant, KKMP, Pacific Development Inc., Triple J Enterprises, Hyatt Regency Saipan, ANA Corp., R&M Printers, and Yusuke Saito.

The Marianas Ukulele Festival is a fun, family event featuring continuous live entertainment, local food and arts and crafts booths, raffle drawings and surprises. It is free and open to the public.

This year's program will focus on local CNMI artists of all ages and skill levels, from professional entertainers to novice players. The Sunset Cruisers, Tata Lino, Tata Felix, and Tata Joe, Gus Kaipat and the Olomwa'ay Sons and Daughters, Marvin and Jay, Ed Johnson and Alana'ia, Da Kine, Jose Carreon and Juan Ichihara, Demalynn Pagarao, LauLau Homebrew, Mongkeya Brothers, Ukituki, and Saipan Community School have been confirmed so far.

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Any ukulele players/groups interested in performing at the festival should contact Larry Lee at marianasukefest@gmail.com or 285-7127, or Gordon Marciano at 285-1195. Anyone interested in supporting the festival through cash or in-kind contributions should please contact the same.

The Marianas Ukulele Festival Association is a registered, non-profit organization whose mission is: to promote and perpetuate ukulele music and heritage by bringing people of all ages together to share the love of ukulele music; and, to create an avenue for people of all cultures to share the island warmth and *"hafa adai tirow* spirit" through the enjoyment of music and culture. One of the goals of the annual Marianas Ukulele Festival is to establish the Northern Marianas as a regionally renowned cultural and entertainment destination.

For more information, visit www.marianasukulelefestival.org. ***(PR)***

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Guam pushes for native-only vote on US relationship

HONOLULU (AP)—The question before a panel of U.S. appeals court judges: Should non-native residents of Guam have a say in the territory's future relationship with the United States?

Three judges from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals were at the University of Hawaii's law school Wednesday to listen to arguments in an appeal of a federal judge's 2017 ruling that says limiting the vote to those who are considered native inhabitants of the island is unconstitutional.

Voters would have three choices: independence, statehood and free association with the United States similar to island states that allow the U.S. exclusive military access to their land and waters while their citizens have the right to live and work in the U.S.

Arnold Davis, a white, non-Chamorro resident of Guam, sued in 2011 after his application to participate in the vote was denied.

Last year's ruling concluded that even though Guam has a long history of colonization and its people have a right to determine their political status with the United States, it's unconstitutional to exclude voters simply because they "do not have the correct ancestry or bloodline."

The ruling cites a 2000 U.S. Supreme Court decision that allows non-Native Hawaiians to vote in elections for Office of Hawaiian Affairs trustees.

Guam appealed.

The vote would only be a "symbolic, but no less sacred, non-binding expression of a political opinion of a subset of Guam," Julian Aguon, an attorney representing Guam, argued Wednesday.

The vote would have ramifications for all who live on the island, said Davis' attorney, Lucas Townsend. "This is a taxpayer-funded, government-sponsored vote involving the territory's election machinery," he said.

Guam plans to submit results to the president of the United States, Congress and the United Nations, Townsend said.

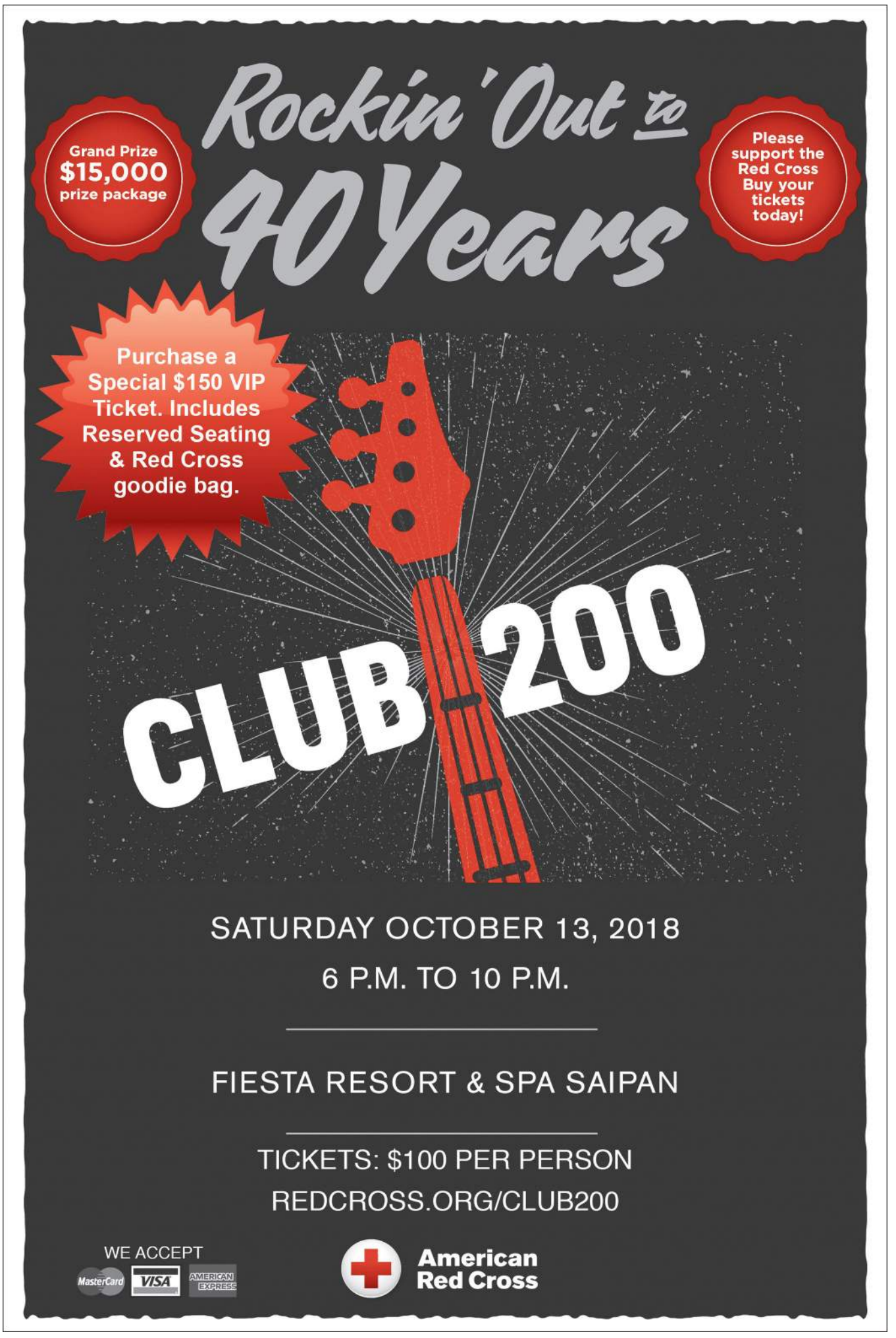
Voters wouldn't be limited based on their race, but would include only those who were granted U.S. citizenship through the 1950 Guam Organic Act and their descendants, Aguon said. Court documents in the case cite 1950 census data showing that the vast majority of the non-citizens on Guam at the time were Chamorro.

About one-third of the U.S. territory's 160,000 people identify as Chamorro, the indigenous group that is believed to have migrated to Guam from Indonesia and the Philippines an estimated 3,500 to 4,000 years ago. The U.S. took control of Guam in 1898 after the Spanish-American War. The Navy ruled the island until Japan took control in 1941. The U.S. installed civilian leadership and granted citizenship to Guam residents in 1950.

It's not clear when the judges will issue a ruling.

Upholding the lower court ruling will effectively end Guam's self-determination effort, Aguon said after the hearing.

"This case is so important because it's about defending the sacred right of self-determination, even if it's a symbolic vote," he said. "It really matters to the community. Guam has been colonized for hundreds of years, and this would finally give us some semblance of dignity to be able to have just this non-binding vote. And that's what it means to me as a Chamorro as well."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Deadline to apply for absentee voting today

The deadline to apply for absentee voting by electronic/mail is today, Friday, according to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita Villagomez.

As of yesterday, 89 out of 177 Northern Islands voters, or 50.28 percent, had already cast their votes for the Nov. 6 general election.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Villagomez said with respect to application for absentee voting, the deadline will be today, Friday, at 4pm for walk-ins, and that the cut-off for those who avail of electronic application is also today at midnight.

Villagomez said walk-in absentee ballot applicants need to bring an identification card and fill up the application over the counter at CEC's office in Susupe.

CEC started accepting request for absentee ballots last Aug. 23.

CEC's records show that as of yesterday, there were 1,982 who were given absentee ballots. They reside mostly in the U.S. mainland, Guam, and Hawaii.

There are two absentee voters in Japan, two in the Philippines, and one each in Switzerland and Canada.

Regarding early voting for the Northern Islands, Villagomez said the process has been running "pretty good."

As of Tuesday, 89 have already voted; no one voted in the past two days.

Villagomez disclosed that starting Oct. 15, they will be moving the polling place for the Northern Islands early voters from the CEC office to Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Early voting for Northern Islands will end on Nov. 5 or a day before the election.

Early voting for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will commence on Oct. 30. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Quake hits PNG, no damage reported

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—An earthquake rattled part of Papua New Guinea on Thursday, but no major damage or injuries have been reported.

The magnitude 7.0 quake was deep enough that it likely did not generate a tsunami, said Chris McKee, the government's acting director of geohazards management.

McKee said disaster officials had been reaching out to people in the Pomio District, near where the quake struck. He said that communication systems in the region were notoriously poor.

McKee said there had been no reports of any major problems from the quake, which he took as a good sign. He added that the quake was also felt in the township of Rabaul.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the quake was centered about 117 kilometers (73 miles) east of Kimbe, West New Britain, on the Pacific island nation and was about 40 kilometers (25 miles) deep.

It was followed by two magnitude 5.9 aftershocks in the same region and then a magnitude 6.3 quake that was centered further northeast on the island.

Pacific Tsunami Warning Center oceanographer David Walsh said scientists don't have tide gauges close to the where the earthquake happened and weren't able to say for sure whether any tsunamis were generated, he said. But the risk was low and likely only in the immediate area.

Papua New Guinea next month hosts the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, which is expected to draw world leaders beginning on Nov. 17.

A magnitude 7.5 earthquake in February in the nation's central region killed at least 125 people and forced another 35,000 from their homes.

The Hela and Southern Highlands provinces that were worst affected are remote and undeveloped, and assessments about the scale of the damage and injuries were slow to filter out.

Home to 7 million people, Papua New Guinea is located on the eastern half of the island of New Guinea, to the east of Indonesia.

It sits on the Pacific's "Ring of Fire," the arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes and volcanic activity occur.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Grade 12 class of Mount Carmel School portray the CNMI at the annual Cultural Diversity Day.

MCS celebrates annual Cultural Diversity Day

Mount Carmel School recently joined the rest of the CNMI in celebrating the annual Cultural Diversity Day, featuring a parade, performances, cultural dances, and costumes.

Different grade levels represented specific cultural traditions: K4-Philippines, K5-Brazil, 1st-India, 2nd-Egypt, 3rd-South Korea, 4th-Russia, 5th-Spain, 6th-Japan, 7th-China, 8th-Fiji, 9th-Jamaica, 10th-Greece, 11th-New Zealand, and 12th-CNMI.

This year's celebration also featured special performances by the school's Dance Club and Achahaga Chamorro Club.

Classes were awarded for creativity, parade spirit, banners, mascots, and performances.

Fourth-grade students won in the K-4 Division. Fifth grade students won in the 5-8 Division. The 12th grade students won in the high school division.

Student Council president Dayna Macaranas enjoyed this year's Cultural Diversity Day, despite the unpredictability of the weather. "Cultural Diversity Day turned out to be better than expected. From the mascots to the banner, every class was active and creative when displaying their respective cultures. Everyone was very cooperative and did a great job [with] their presentations." ***(PR)***

Public invited to DVAM events

The public is invited to take part in events and activities scheduled throughout October as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

These events, coordinated by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Family Violence Task Force, along with partnering agencies and volunteers, aim to bring communities together with these activities from softball tournaments to walk and rolls to candlelight vigils.

This weekend on Tinian, there will be a three-day softball tournament that opens at 3pm on Friday, Oct. 12, 2018, at the Tinian Baseball Field. This will be followed by a Men's Walk & Roll Against Domestic Violence and candlelight vigil for domestic violence victims.

At the Men's Walk & Roll Against Domestic Violence, men and boys are invited to walk in skirts, sarongs, or lava lavas to take a stand against domestic violence and violence against women and girls.

The candlelight vigil for domestic violence victims is hosted to honor and remember victims who lost their lives to domestic violence.

The Tinian Softball Tournament will continue through Sunday, Oct. 14 and will conclude with a Zumba session.

On Saipan, there will be a Walk & Roll Against Domestic Violence on Wednesday, Oct. 17, starting with registration at 5pm and the walk at 5:30pm. Registration will be set up at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s parking lot.

Later that week is the Day of Unity on Saturday, Oct. 20, from 11am to 3pm at the Garapan Central Park. This family fun event will feature live entertainment, exhibits, games and activities, as well as raffle giveaways.

The last event on Saipan is the Purple Thursday event on Oct. 25, starting at 5pm at the Minachom Atdao pavilion and will feature a Men's Walk & Roll Against Domestic Violence followed by the candlelight vigil for domestic violence victims.

Purple Thursday is also a national event that occurs in October to encourage people to wear purple to spread awareness of domestic violence and show support for victims and survivors.

Closing out the CNMI's DVAM 2018 activities will be the Night of Unity on Rota from 5:30pm to 9:30pm on Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Tun Kundo' Baseball Field. This event will feature family friendly games and activities, live entertainment, food vendors, as well as a Walk & Roll Against Domestic Violence followed by a candlelight vigil for domestic violence victims.

Those interested in volunteering or donating to help support these events may contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org.

For more information about these events or domestic violence, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org or contact FVTF at 664-4583/4584.

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence or abuse, call 911 if you need emergency assistance, or call the CNMI's Victim Hotline at (670) 234-5100. ***(PR)***

Zen 禅
TEPPANYAKI RESTAURANT
Zen 禅
TEPPANYAKI RESTAURANT
An Authentic Experience
Introduces its weekend Teppanyaki lunch special! Open every Saturday and Sunday for lunch, starting October 13, 2018, from 11am-2pm
Choice of one entrée paired with seasonal grilled vegetables:
• Chicken sauté provencal
• Chicken sauté Japonese
• Pork steak Hawaiian
• Pork ginger
• Salt-grilled mackerel
Included with each entrée is the soup of the day, salad bar, curry, steamed rice, and iced tea – presented buffet style.
Regular Price $18 per person
Local Price $14 per person
Children, ages 4-11 yrs, can avail of the soup, salad, curry, rice, and iced tea for 50% off of the regular price (entrée not included).
We offer free round trip transportation from Mariana Lounge (former China House Restaurant) to Zen Teppanyaki Restaurant. When you book your table, please let our friendly staff know you would like to avail of this service.
Opens Daily for Dinner: 6pm - 10pm
Reservations Required.
Please call 237-8300
Mariana Lounge
MARIANA OCEAN
Mariana Country Club
SAIPAN ★ U.S.A.
OPEN DAILY
7:00AM - 6:00PM
Obot.ai
A Google-based interactive Artificial Intelligence (AI) Chatbot system.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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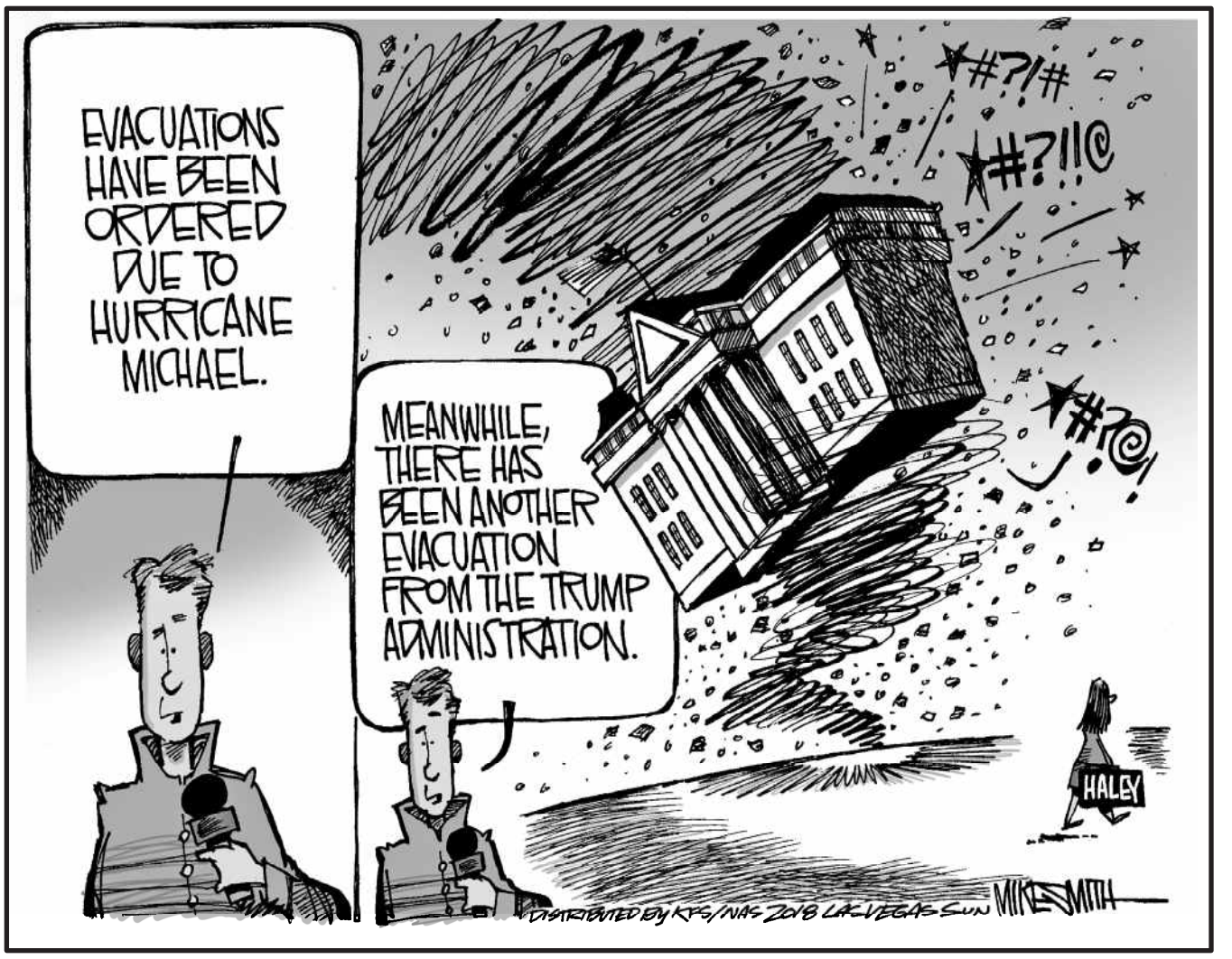
EVACUATIONS HAVE BEEN ORDERED DUE TO HURRICANE MICHAEL.
MEANWHILE, THERE HAS BEEN ANOTHER EVACUATION FROM THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION.
HALEY
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MIKE SMITH

EDITORIAL

Where's Jamal? The Saudis owe the world an answer.

People hold signs during a protest at the Embassy of Saudi Arabia about the disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018, in Washington. AP

Where is Jamal? That's what his fiancee, Hatice Cengiz, wants to know. It's what Turkey and the rest of the world want to know. Only Saudi Arabia has the answer.

Cengiz was the last person to see Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi alive before he walked into the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2 to pick up documents he needed before their wedding. As he walked toward the entrance, she said she would wait for him outside, *The Washington Post* reported. "Fine, my darling," he told her. Turkey says he never came out.

Worse, Turkish officials suspect he was murdered by a Saudi regime that claims to embrace reforms but cracks down on any glimmer of dissent. Has Saudi Arabia joined the club of thug nations, locking arms with the likes of Russia, Venezuela, Iran and North Korea? Khashoggi's fate will help the world decide.

For years, Khashoggi, 59, was widely seen as a cogent, clear-thinking voice on Saudi affairs. As of late, he had been a contributor to The Washington Post's Global Opinions section. Earlier in his career, he served as an aide for the Saudi regime's intelligence chief, then established himself as a respected Saudi journalist. He even had on his resume an interview with Osama bin Laden in the 1980s when bin Laden was a militant leader fighting the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

But he also became a critic of the Saudi regime and its day-to-day leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Prince Mohammed's rule has had a Jekyll-and-Hyde cast to it. At the same time he has touted reforms such as allowing women to drive, he has overseen the arrest of activists and critics. He also has prosecuted a brutal, Saudi-led intervention in Yemen, where civilian casualties continue to mount.

Turkey's suspicions aren't certainties, but neither are they preposterous. Khashoggi first went to the Saudi Consulate on Sept. 28 to get the documents but was told to come back in a week. In between Khashoggi's two consulate visits, a

See JAMAL on Next Page

Rural kids in college

By WALTER WENDLER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Walter V. Wendler is president of West Texas A&M University. His reflections are available at www.walterwendler.com.

Contrary to predispositions, some rural kids do very well in universities. A recent Opportunity Insights study reports that rural students from many areas of the country are as upwardly mobile as their contemporaries from urban or suburban communities. However, the notion that students from rural communities are not as well-prepared for college or do not attend college at the same rate as their urban and suburban counterparts contains an element of truth. Some students from smaller communities do a little bit of arithmetic—a mathematical capability built on a foundation of basics at an old-fashioned public school—and find out that the family ranch or farm enterprise is as financially appealing as a "big city" job. They make an informed decision to remain in a rural setting in a community "where you don't need to use your turn signals because everyone knows where you're going anyway," than to live in the city where, with or without a turn signal, a one-finger salute is a common motorist's salutation.

The dire warnings from sources such as *The Atlantic* assert the only positive post-high school life follows a college education, and the urban bias goes like this: "When they're ready to be done with high school, they think, 'That's all the school I need, and I'm just going to go and find a job' on the family farm or at the egg-packaging plant or the factory that makes pulleys and conveyor belts, or driving trucks that haul grain." It is quite possible that students have paid attention to the life-choking debt burdens of college graduates. They have applied country horse sense to the perspective that says, "I may be better served by going out and finding gainful employment."

If a student takes a history class at a university with 300 students, and his hometown has a population of 100, the assumption is the student from the small town is disadvantaged. How about this possibility? Students from urban and suburban high schools that graduate thousands annually might glean something worthwhile from their classmate that hails from a smaller, more intimate community. Good ideas, such as the centrality of family life in creating a healthy economic unit, or the value of looking after your neighbor when he or she hits a rough patch, or the benefit of being able to put your head down and go to work, or taking orders and working toward something larger than yourself. The "ism" that infects too many people in too many parts of our nation is that the way I live is the way you should live. Disappointingly, diversity disappears.

However, it is also fair to note that in some areas rural kids are less likely to attend college than their metropolitan counterparts because they are unprepared. The Pew Research Center confirms this truism. It is clear that different rural areas produce college-going students at different rates.

Universities interested in attracting students from smaller communities have a number of options. First among them, do not apologize for value systems that are not the reported urban norm. Smaller community value systems may be the strongest attraction for students from metropolitan areas. Secondly, when teachers and advisors in rural schools suggest that universities may be overpriced and instead recommend community colleges and vocational schools, institutions should embrace that advice through enlightened transfer relationships. Applaud those practically minded tutors that caution students about overspending for a university degree. Don't criticize fiscal responsibility. It starts at home.

The New York Times, located in the heart of the most densely populated region in our nation, suggests that many colleges are working diligently to attract rural students. One commenter from Idaho made this observation: "The best students I ever had were from small towns. Most had grown up on a farm or a ranch. They got up early; they were on time and attended every class. They did their work on time and never made excuses. They were far more mature than their classmates and had a better understanding of life's vagaries." Personal experience resonates with this perspective.

This much is true to be sure. Individual attention is required to both attract students and help them be successful with a university experience. Rural institutions should forgo what works in big cities and apply what works at home—a personal touch. Talk to people. Treat them as if they matter. Do not expect them to respond to things exactly as you do. They are individuals. Use dignity, courtesy and respect in communications. Flattery, pandering or condescension will not work well in any environment and is particularly troubling to students who have an appreciation for hard work, action, results and rewards.

Rural or urban—kids all the same and all need attention to their individual aspirations.

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One-star movies

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. At EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

The Halloween sprit has inspired me to think about the scary movies we used to watch when I was a kid. TV back then was split into two bands. The three major networks (CBS, NBC, ABC) and the larger local independent stations were channels on the VHF band. This was the Main Street of TV. But the real action for scary movies was on the UHF band, which was sort of a back alley of offerings from smaller stations.

The Sunday newspaper had a thin magazine that listed the upcoming week's TV shows. Each movie listing had a rating that ran from one star to five stars. This is how we mined cinematic gold, having ascertained that the one-star movies were the best.

I don't know how many of these movies I digested. I'm figuring one a week, on average, during the cold months. Over the course of five years that would be about 60 movies. I don't recall any of the advertisements that we saw during these scary movies. Maybe we weren't in the target market. Or maybe the ads were memorable for their un-memorableness, or would have been if I could only remember them.

Anyway, what I do remember is a random mosaic of pieces of the movies. I decided to try categorizing them, as fuzzy and faded as those recollections might be.

Going in no particular order here, I'll start with Frankenstein movies. These seemed to culminate with angry, torch-wielding locals showing up at a mad scientist's laboratory to put an end to his experimental escapades.

And then there were mummy movies. These were centered on an ancient curse and somebody messing with old tombs in Egypt. They could be pretty creepy. They had more intrigue and nuance than the Frankenstein flicks.

But even creepier were some of the vampire movies. Sometimes the vampire could turn into a bat, fly into someone's open window, and then put the bite on them. I don't remember if the biting was done by the vampire in bat form or in human form, but the flying-bat scenes were scary. Well, at least you won't find me raiding the scarce supply of fruit bats in the Mariana Islands; thanks to my early education from one-star movies, I know the real risks.

Speaking of creatures that bite, another scary movie theme was the werewolf, a creature that could take the guise of man or wolf. There must be some old legends behind this idea. In a movie, though, it seemed too implausible to be very spooky. The vampire concept, by contrast, has some plausibility at the metaphorical level; even if they're not sucking your literal blood, many people are driven by the compulsion to suck the joy out of everyone else's life.

Scary creatures aren't solely of the earthly origins, at least if you subscribe to the biological outlook of one-star movies. Space monsters were a common theme. In some cases the monsters were invading Earth. In other cases space-traveling earthlings encountered the monsters in their native habitats. These movies were often very creative and delightfully kitschy. One movie featured an alien space-ship commander that was just a big eyeball. I wish I remembered that flick more clearly. A plot with that element simply can't lose.

Meanwhile, back on Earth, there were still many threats left to consider. Godzilla movies, and other Japanese monster themes, were prolific indeed. They were entertaining, but the ones I remember seeing didn't seem intent on being scary. As for the really scary movies, the scariest were the ghost movies, which often involved haunted houses and things that went "bump" in the night.

That's pretty much what I remember of those old movies. My TV window was a brief span of years because as soon as I was old enough to earn pocket money I was buying books and radios and other stuff that kept me occupied on cold evenings. Not that I had to abandon scary entertainment. Radio shows such as the CBS Radio Mystery Theater were, for me, more compelling than TV fare.

By the time I was in high school the popular genres seemed to be slasher movies and zombie movies. Slasher movies featured homicidal maniacs, some more outlandish than others. Zombie movies featured, of course, zombies, an old theme that seems to fade away only to re-vivify itself with zombie-like tenacity.

Now that's I've blown the cobwebs off those dusty memories, I've also put some store-bought webs on my Halloween decorations. Yes, indeed, life is one big circle. For that matter, life is probably a low-budget movie as well, but hopefully one with a happy ending.

Nippon investments

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

The sale and closure of Nippon investments here in recent past seemed to have faded into the sunset unnoticed. Isn't this a major economic contraction our men of wisdom on the hill should be concerned about? Do we have any sense of history? Or is it something simply ignored by so-called elected elite as a direct result of a leadership vacuum? Would reinventing this sector be met with trust or is this basically history too?

The partnership matters, given the primordial relationship we've had before the hostilities here in the mid-'40s. Our Japanese friends were a part of our developmental history then, including their return in the early '60s.

Recalled the return of those born here then in the mid-'60s via PanAm 707 flight from Tokyo. How sentimental a journey, seeing home once more. It was a trip that included a tour of Garapan, the main city here before the war.

Two issues Japan placed here before the war: A literate indigenous population and a healthy economy from the land and sea. The train at the Matsue monument in Garapan represents a healthy sugar industry here before the war. Its sugar export to Japan included local farm and sea products feeding a larger population in Tokyo. We had a decent economy!

Nippon re-investment was so healthy that we told the U.S. Congress in 1993 to refrain from giving the CNMI any more funds for CIP for we have sufficient locally raised revenues for this and other needs. Japanese investors brought us tons of wealth without casino gambling!

Reportedly, the cumulative loss of Nippon investment here in recent past is around $7 billion. Not sure how it came about but the loss is humongous and I doubt that it has been restored in recent years. This needs revisiting to ensure we have sufficient revenues for our fast-growing needs.

Indicators

Has the NMI done due diligence on economic indicators to secure an informed or educated view of its posture? Forensic review should include gross domestic product, labor market statistics, inflation indicators, balance of payment, household expenditure, retail sales, consumer confidence, house price index, and public sector expenditure and debt.

Unless we have minute information on these issues, our journey remains headed to a distant destination aboard a canoe with shredded sails. What a journey this would be, chancing everything with the usual *la mañana.* Has anyone figured out what is south? Must buckle down to responsible assessment of current economic posture.

Raw emotion

Across the sea, the contentious confirmation of newly sworn-in Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh has inflamed the political divide into the Potomac of uncertainty.

Reportedly, it's also given new definition to the high stakes of November's midterm election. An AP Analysis said it thus: "Until now, the fight for control of Congress has largely been viewed as a referendum on President Donald Trump's first two years in office.

"But the turmoil surrounding Kavanaugh has transformed the midterms into something bigger than Trump, with implications that could endure long after his presidency." The president may not be the norm versus our ways but he's succeeded for all of us.

Chamoru land rights

It may be a long journey but the first step would be taken to claim indigenous land rights to the island of Guam that belongs to the Chamorus.

It was claimed by the U.S. after the American-Spanish War in 1898. A ship was sent out to Guam for the claim. It has since been under the U.S.

What do colonial powers make of indigenous landowners? Aren't they entitled to common human dignity too? Why would they exercise sovereign disposition of indigenous land?

The local people acceded in quiet common knowledge, wary they don't have the strength or weaponry to fight any of the colonial powers. It would be indigenous genocide. I say it's time to grant the Chamorus on Guam their land.

Rain

The heavy downpour has drenched the island since a day before. It hasn't slowed down a bit but has forced most everything down to a snail pace, e.g., traffic.

The rainy season brings renewal to the island flora. It also brings some sentimental journey of long ago, e.g., walking to the farm in the wind-driven rain to feed our livestock. It was once a dreadful walk, muddy and cold. It was survival chores for many kids then.

The next day we had to do with the breakfast of champions—faucet water in our tummy—as we head to class in the morning.

Yes, I hear heavy drizzle upstairs on the tin roof of the porch at home. It's a familiar sound I heard a long time ago at the old family house in Lali Fo`. It's that melodic sound of yester-years!

JAMAL

From Page 14

team of 15 Saudi agents arrived in Istanbul on two planes, Turkish officials say. According to The New York Times, Turkish investigators say the agents killed Khashoggi inside the consulate and dismembered his body.

Saudi officials say Khashoggi left the consulate, but they haven't offered any evidence. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has pressed the Saudi regime to come clean, saying Saudi consular officials have access to security cameras that could either prove or refute their claims. "Do you not have cameras and everything of the sort?" he said of consular officials. "Then why do you not prove this?"

In contrast to Erdogan, President Donald Trump's reaction has been subdued. "I don't like hearing about it," Trump said Monday. "Hopefully that will sort itself out." Since taking office, Trump has coddled the Saudi regime. He sees the Saudis as valued regional allies against Iran. He may have a soft spot for the crown prince, but if Khashoggi was murdered by Saudi assassins, Trump will have to hold Riyadh accountable.

The Saudi royals covet relations with the West, so they know that Khashoggi's disappearance marks a crossroads. They can continue to hide behind the facade of reform, or they can embrace real change by freeing dissidents and activists. They also should allow journalists to do their jobs. Most urgently, they owe the world an answer about what's happened to Khashoggi.

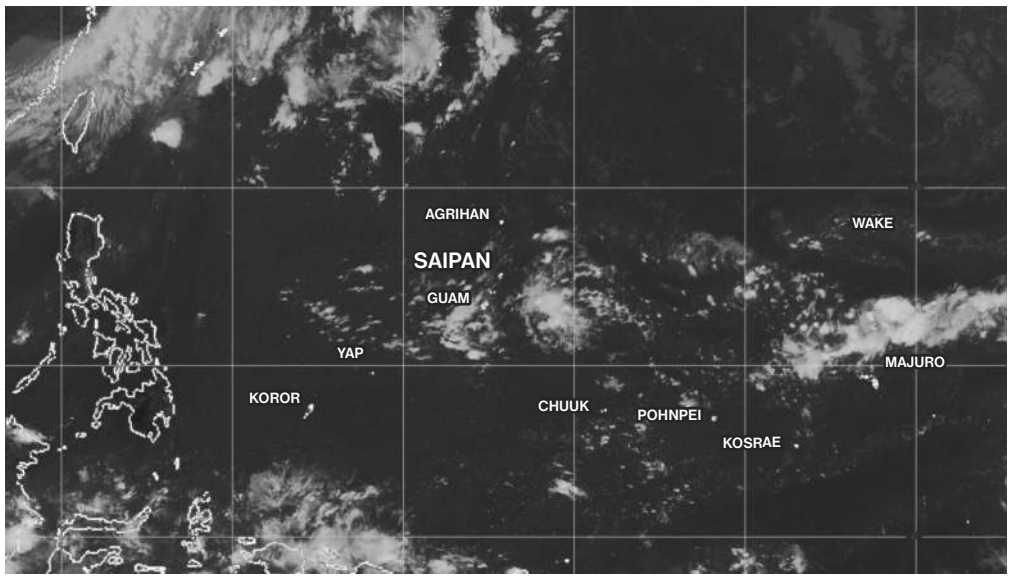
(c)2018 Chicago Tribune

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:08 AM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Overall, did not make many changes to the forecast. It looks relatively dry through Sunday with prevailing trade winds. There is an area of showers and a few thunderstorms off to the east of the islands, so have introduced thunder into the forecast for today. There is still some dry air at the mid levels but can`t rule out thunderstorms or even a period of showers today. Then by Sunday, a trough sets up over the region which will bring more cloudiness and a renew threat of thunder, which will last until about Tuesday before more drying moves in.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	89° / 77°
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	88° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	55° / 46°
Beijing	Sunny	72° / 43°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82° / 75°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	84° / 72°
London	Windy	68° / 63°
Los Angeles	Sunny	79° / 61°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	75° / 55°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
New York	Thunderstorms	66° / 50°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	72° / 59°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	75° / 59°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	70° / 54°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	79° / 61°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	76° / 53°
San Francisco	Sunny	69° / 55°
Seoul	Sunny	64° / 43°
Tokyo	Cloudy	64° / 57°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	63° / 49°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET
3:39 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.06
10:04 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.91
4:03 PM	LOW TIDE	0.83
9:15 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.85

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM
Monday	6:08 AM	5:56 PM
Tuesday	6:08 AM	5:56 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:42 AM	8:31 PM	-
Saturday	9:36 AM	9:18 PM	-
Sunday	10:28 AM	10:05 PM	-
Monday	11:20 AM	10:54 PM	-
Tuesday	12:09 AM	11:43 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA105	4:55am	5:41am	3, 5
UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:00am	7:45am	Daily
UA104	11:30pm	12:16am+1	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ625	8:40pm	2:10am+1	7
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:35am	2, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:20pm	2:50am+1	1, 5

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	8:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	8:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	8:45am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174 via GUM	10:25pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
PR110/UA174	10:55pm	7:45am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:30am	8:25am	1
UO43	6:00am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	8:45am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:25am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:30am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

St. Jude Fiesta highlights 'giving to those in need'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The St. Jude Parish under the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa will be celebrating the 2018 St. Jude Fiesta with a slew of events in keeping with the theme of giving to those in need.

Starting from Oct. 20, 2018, through Oct. 28, 2018, the parish, according to Fr. James Balajadia, would be hosting free health checks; free hygienic supply outreach; Bible studies in the most unexpected venues, and much more.

On Oct. 20, 2018, a health walk around Koblerville at 7am will be followed by a free health check at the parish social hall. The following day, also known as World Mission Sunday, starts with a *novena* at 9:30am followed by a Mass at 10am. Events will then segue to an outreach, during which hygienic supplies such as toothpaste, detergent, soap, etc., would be given away to those who need them.

Oct. 24, 2018, a biblical outreach called "Bible on Tap" would be held in the Naked Fish Restaurant in Susupe at 6:30pm. The event is a group Bible study at a bar.

Balajadia noted that this particular event targets young adults. "[Bible studies in a bar] have never been done, but we wanted to do it," he said. "[Jesus] was out at parties. He was out where people are at, so we wanted to reach out. If people are not coming to us for whatever reason, we want to go out and meet them out there."

When asked why the 2018 fiesta for St. Jude is special, Balajadia noted that being a "Christian in motion" is their main goal. "…Jesus was in the temple and at the synagogue, and in the church. [But] a lot of times he was out serving the needy, feeding the lost sheep, and trying to call the people back," he said.

Oct. 25 will highlight the fellowship with a blessing of oils, followed by the trivia night and fellowship, while the following day, a Mass will be held for departed parishioners, including a blessing for their families.

Oct. 27 will feature the same novena and Mass.

Oct. 28—the official fiesta day—will feature a novena at 3:30pm, then a Mass at 4pm, followed by food, fellowship, and entertainment.

"Anyone is welcome to join our activities," said Balajadia. "We welcome people from all walks of life."

St. Jude Thaddeus, the parish's patron saint, is the patron of those who feel hopeless. "Our fiesta is about giving hope to those in need," Balajadia said, adding that those who are struggling with finances, family, addictions, relationships, or faith are all welcome to participate.

St. Jude Parish
Fiesta Celebration
OCTOBER 20TH-28TH, 2018
All are welcome to join as we prepare to celebrate the feast day of our patron St. Jude Thaddeus! Nightly Novena and masses begin on Saturday October 20th. Novena begins at 5:30PM Followed by 6:00 PM Mass. Various activities are posted below.
SATURDAY OCTOBER 20th
7:00 AM
Walk around the village of Koblerville followed by Free Health Check at Social Hall.
Novena 5:30 PM.
Mass 6:00 PM.
SUNDAY OCTOBER 21st
World Mission Sunday
Novena 9:30 AM
Mass 10:00 AM
Outreach Hygienic Supplies to needy
MONDAY OCTOBER 22nd
Novena 5:30PM
Mass 6PM
TUESDAY OCTOBER 23rd
Youth Trivia and Fellowship
Novena 5:30 PM
Mass 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 24th
Novena 5:30 PM
Mass 6:00 PM
Bible on Tap
Naked Fish 6:30 PM
Introduction To The Bible Course
BIBLE ON TAP
THURSDAY OCTOBER 25th
Fellowship Blessing of Oils and then Trivia Night and Fellowship
FRIDAY OCTOBER 26th
Mass for Departed Parishioners and blessing of their families
Novena 5:30 PM.
Mass 6:00 PM.
SATURDAY OCTOBER 27th
4:30 PM
Novena and
5:00 PM
Anticipated Sunday Mass then Lukao
SUNDAY OCTOBER 28th
Novena at 3:30 PM then 4:00 PM Mass Followed by Food, Fellowship and Entertainment
Biba San Jude!
"Thank you for your generosity and support! May God Bless you always!"

United Airlines removes surfboard fees for flights to/from California

GUAM—To celebrate California recently naming surfing as the state's official sport, United Airlines is removing the service fees for surfboards for customers traveling to or from California.

Effective Oct. 5, customers traveling with a surfboard, wakeboard, or paddleboard on direct United Airlines or United Express itineraries that originate or end at any California airport will not have to pay the previous $150 or $200 service fee to check these items. The regular checked-bag fee will apply.

To help preserve California's coast and oceans, United is donating $50,000 to Sustainable Surf, a California-based environmental nonprofit that operates as an innovation lab using surfing as a force for good—to solve the ocean health crisis by 2050.

"California made it official: surfing is our state sport. We want to make it easier for customers to surf our beautiful beaches, whether they're visiting or call the Golden State home," said Janet Lamkin, United's president for California. "This partnership continues our commitment to the environment by supporting an organization like Sustainable Surf, which helps keep our beaches beautiful."

"Sustainable Surf is thrilled to receive support from United Airlines to help us protect and regenerate ocean health," said Sustainable Surf co-founder Michael Stewart. "We see a very close alignment between our own work and United's Eco-Skies sustainability program. We are looking forward to partnering with United to better enable our shared goals and values of keeping the world clean."

Through United's donation, Sustainable Surf will continue to focus on a variety of programs that address environmental impacts on the ocean by educating local and global communities.

United has operated in California for more than 90 years and connects almost 18 million annual passengers through its hubs in Los Angeles and San Francisco. United brings the world to California and Californians to the world, flying to more California, U.S. and international destinations than any other airline. ***(PR)***

Black Ties & Zories Wish Night on Nov. 9

Aug. 25, 1988, marked the start of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI. This Nov. 9, 2018, the chapter will celebrate its 30th anniversary at the annual Black Ties & Zories Wish Night at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. The evening celebrates 30 years of wish granting for our islands' children and transforming lives, one child at a time.

Doors open at 6pm with cocktail hour, followed by a four-course dinner service including musical live entertainment by J.J. Concepcion. Through stories, entertainment, on-site raffles, Best Zories contest, delectable dishes, and good company, the 2018 Wish Night is set to be a memorable evening.

As is tradition, all in attendance are encouraged to dress in formal attire and zories.

Black Ties & Zories Wish Night will take place on Nov. 9. Tickets are available at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Naked Fish Bar & Grill, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and Gold's Gym Saipan. Call 483-4117, 285-6175 for more information or email cnmiwish@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

SINMI accepting applications for award

The Soroptimist International of the Northern Mariana Islands is now accepting applications for our annual Live Your Dream award. The completed application and two reference forms must be submitted before Oct. 10, 2018, for consideration in the judging process. For digital copies of both forms, email pbrown52@gmail.com.

These annual awards are given to women who are attending college or vocational training and who are the primary financial support for their family. A list of other requirements will be provided. The award money can be spent on whatever a recipient chooses.

Plan ahead to attend our award ceremony on Oct. 20 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan at 6pm. Ticket prices are $50. For more information, contact Pam Brown at (670) 483-9496 or Maureen Sebangiol at (670) 287-4674. ***(PR)***

Business

World Bank, IMF heads urge US, China to play by trade rules

NUSA DUA, Indonesia (AP)—The heads of the World Bank and IMF on Thursday urged the U.S. and China to play by world trade rules and de-escalate a dispute over Beijing's technology development strategy that threatens to do lasting damage to the global economy.

Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said she would advise Beijing and Washington to cool down, fix aspects of the world trading system that need fixing and "don't break it."

Lagarde and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim spoke separately on the sidelines of the lenders' annual meeting in a resort zone of the tropical Indonesian island of Bali. The event brings together finance ministers and central bankers from many economies, amid tight security: a line of armed personnel carriers were lined up alongside a beach path and access to the area was tightly controlled.

Lagarde

Asked about the escalating dispute between the U.S. and China, Lagarde said that so far there had been no "contagion" of major damage from penalty tariffs imposed by the two countries on each other's exports, but that they do risk hurting "innocent bystanders."

Lagarde said her advice was in three parts: "De-escalate. Fix the system. Don't break it."

The rules-making World Trade Organization, based in Geneva, has ways of addressing U.S. complaints that China's policies unfairly extract advanced technologies and put foreign companies at a disadvantage in its push to dominate certain industries, she said. But she added that the WTO does need to work on addressing issues like subsidies.

"Our strong recommendation is to escalate work for a world trade system that is stronger, that is fairer and is fit for the purpose," she said in opening remarks.

Lagarde also, somewhat obliquely, said policies aimed toward an excessively "dominant position" were not compatible with free and fair trade.

Earlier in the week, the IMF downgraded its global economic outlook, forecasting growth will be 3.7 percent this year rather than its earlier estimate for 3.9 percent growth. It also issued reports on government finance and financial stability that warn of the risks of disruptions to world trade.

Kim said the World Bank was working with developing countries to prepare for a further deterioration. If tariffs were imposed to their most extreme limits there would be a "clear slowdown and the impact on the developing countries would be greater," he said.

"Trade is very critical because that is what has lifted people out of extreme poverty.

New Tokyo fish market starts traditionally with tuna auction

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo's famous fish market reopened Thursday at a new location but retained its most famous tradition: the tuna auction.

The customary clanging of bells opened the auction for raw and frozen tuna, which crammed the huge warehouse wall-to-wall, at the waterfront Toyosu facility. The rhythmical shouts of the auctioneers and the special hand signals by the bidders that followed were unchanged from Tsukiji, the smaller, more accessible home the market recently left after more than eight decades.

The top bid for tuna, a delicacy much like premium-grade beef in Japan, was 4.28 million yen ($38,000), not an unusually high price for quality tuna.

The more than 400 kinds of seafood at the market come from all over Japan, as well as from abroad, including octopus, eel, sea urchin and other items special to Japanese cuisine.

The market serves top restaurants and everyday supermarkets alike. The move was delayed for two years because of worries about contamination, including arsenic, at the Toyosu site. Measures were taken to ensure safety, such as better water pumps and extra concrete sealing.

Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike attended the opening and expressed hopes for the location's success.

"Of course, things are different here," she said of how the new place may take getting used to.

"We must build the Toyosu brand, day by day, to make it a symbol of Tokyo, and of Japan. I hope to move forward with all of you."

Officials and workers then clapped rhythmically in celebration of Toyosu's opening, the same customary gesture for good luck that had closed Tsukiji on Oct. 6.

Free-of-charge tours for the public start Saturday, including seeing the auction from a huge glass window. Visitors will not be able to go on the auction floor as they could at Tsukiji. Reporters got a tour of the grounds Thursday.

Like Tsukiji, Toyosu also has a vegetable wholesale area, where auctions also take place. In several spots in the same market complex are tiny restaurants, including the ones that used to be at Tsukiji but also new ones.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Postal Service proposes 5 cent increase to first-class stamp

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Postal Service is seeking to increase the price of its first-class stamp by 5 cents to 55 cents to help stem its mounting red ink. If approved by regulators, the 10 percent increase to the cost of mailing a 1-ounce letter would be the biggest since 1991. The price of each additional ounce would go down, from 21 cents to 15 cents. The proposed increase would take effect in January. It comes as President Donald Trump has criticized the Postal Service for "losing a fortune" by not charging higher shipping rates for online retailers such as Amazon.com. The Postal Service has seen years of financial losses as an unrelenting drop in mail volume and costs of its health care and pension obligations outweighed strong gains in package deliveries.

3 Georgia men who ran currency exchange convicted of fraud

ATLANTA (AP)—Three Georgia men who ran a currency exchange business have been convicted of fraud. The U.S. attorney's office in Atlanta said in a news release Wednesday that Tyson Rhame and James Shaw of Atlanta and Frank Bell of Decatur were convicted of charges including mail and wire fraud. Rhame and Shaw owned and operated Sterling Currency group, which prosecutors say was once one of the largest U.S. sellers of the Iraqi dinar. Bell was chief operating officer. Prosecutors say Sterling brought in more than $600 million from currency sales between 2010 and 2015, and Rhame and Shaw received more than $180 million in distributions. Prosecutors say the men worked to convince investors they would get rich by investing in the dinar, including by spreading false information about the Iraqi currency.

Trump signs bills to help patients stop overpaying for drugs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Insurers will no longer be able to bar pharmacists from telling consumers when paying cash would be cheaper than using insurance for their prescriptions, as a result of bills signed Wednesday by President Donald Trump. The two bills had broad bipartisan support as a consumer-friendly move to correct "gag rules" that many viewed as an egregious business practice. One bill applies to private health insurance and the other to Medicare. The measures bar health plans or middlemen that manage pharmacy benefits from getting in between pharmacists and their customers. No longer can pharmacists be contractually prohibited from telling consumers when they would actually save money by not using their insurance plans.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID
MVA-ITB-18-2010

PASEO DE MARIANAS PEDESTRIAN MALL IMPROVEMENTS

Submission Date: **December 14, 2018**
Time: **3:00 pm**

Submit sealed ITB to: Procurement Office
Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

A Mandatory Pre- BID Conference will be held on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 9:00 AM in the main conference room at the MVA office in San Jose. A site walk will be conducted immediately after the pre-BID in order to further explain the project, and allow interested firms to become familiarized with the site. No BID will be accepted from any firm which fails to attend this mandatory pre-BID conference and site walk.

Interested parties may pick up the ITB package at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2018 at 5:30 pm in Conference Room 3 at the Administrative Offices.

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Approval of Agenda
IV. Adoption of Minutes
V. Public Comments
VI. Reports:
  A. Management & Operations
  B. Financial Statement FY18
  C. CHCC Budget FY19
  D. Malpractice Insurance
  E. CMS & ECRI Dashboard Update
  F. QAPI Report
  G. ESRD
VII. Old Business:
  A. Chargemaster
  B. Update onTelemedicine & Telepharmacy for Tinian Health Center
  C. Draft Legislation
  D. CHCC/CUC Meeting & Payment Schedule
VIII. To vote and approve application for Privileges.
  New Applicants: 1) Dr. Mary Bellama 2) Dr. Ashebir Chekol 3) Dr. Hima Yalamanchili 4) Dr. Nellie Prado 5) Dr. Kim Mung 6) Dr. Peachy Piana 7) David Knabel, PA 8) Branden Heath, PA 9) Emily Darr, NP 10) Dr. Ali Ghellai
  Renewal Applicants: 11) Dr. Angelica Sabino 12) Dr. Elizabeth Kohnen 13) Dr. David Grauman 14) Alexander Johanson, PA
IX. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in Executive Session to consult with legal counsel.
X. Announcement
XI. Adjournment

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES
TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PERIMETER FENCE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the Perimeter Fence Replacement at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, October 5, 2018, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2018.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Date: September 6, 2018

Nation

Michael charges into Southeast after slamming north Florida

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (AP)—Hurricane Michael's battering waves swamped streets and docks and shrieking winds splintered trees and rooftops. The most powerful hurricane on record to hit Florida's Panhandle left wide destruction and at least one person dead and wasn't nearly finished Thursday as it crossed Georgia toward the Carolinas, still reeling from epic flooding in Hurricane Florence.

Authorities said at least one person has died, a man killed by a tree falling on a Panhandle home. Search and rescue crews were expected to escalate efforts to reach hardest-hit areas and check for anyone trapped or injured in the storm debris.

A day after the supercharged storm crashed ashore amid white sand beaches, fishing towns and military bases, Michael was no longer a Category 4 monster packing 155 mph (250 kph) winds. Downgraded to a tropical storm early Thursday over south-central Georgia, it continued to weaken but was still menacing the Southeast with heavy rains, blustery winds and possible spinoff tornadoes.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami said the eye of Michael was about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south-southwest of Macon in central Georgia at 12:00 a.m. Thursday. The storm had top sustained winds of 70 mph (112 kph) and was moving to the northeast at 17 mph (27 kph).

After daylight Thursday residents of north Florida would just be beginning to take stock of the enormity of the disaster.

Damage in Panama City near where Michael came ashore Wednesday afternoon was so extensive that broken and uprooted trees and downed power lines lay nearly everywhere. Roofs were peeled away, sent airborne, and homes were split open by fallen trees. Twisted street signs lay on the ground. Palm trees whipped wildly in the winds. More than 380,000 homes and businesses were without power at the height of the storm.

Vance Beu, 29, was staying with his mother at her home, Spring Gate Apartments, a complex of single-story wood frame buildings where they piled up mattresses around themselves for protection. A pine tree punched a hole in their roof and his ears even popped when the barometric pressure went lower. The roar of the winds, he said, sounded like a jet engine.

AP

Haley Nelson inspects damage to her family properties in the Panama City, Fla., spring field area after Hurricane Michael made landfall in Florida's Panhandle on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018.

"It was terrifying, honestly. There was a lot of noise. We thought the windows were going to break at any time," Beu said.

Sally Crown rode out Michael on the Florida Panhandle thinking at first that the worst damage was the many trees downed in her yard. But after the storm passed, she emerged to check on the cafe she manages and discovered a scene of breathtaking destruction.

"It's absolutely horrendous. Catastrophic," Crown said. "There's flooding. Boats on the highway. A house on the highway. Houses that have been there forever are just shattered."

A Panhandle man was killed by a tree that toppled on a home, Gadsden County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Anglie Hightower said. But she added emergency crews trying to reach the home were hampered by downed trees and debris blocking roadways. The debris was a problem in many coastal communities and still hundreds of thousands of people were also left without power.

Gov. Rick Scott announced afterward that thousands of law enforcement officers, utility crews and search and rescue teams would now go into recovery mode. He said "aggressive" search and rescue efforts would get underway.

"Hurricane Michael cannot break Florida," Scott vowed.

Michael sprang quickly from a weekend tropical depression, going from a Category 2 on Tuesday to a Category 4 by the time it came ashore. It forced more than 375,000 people up and down the Gulf Coast to evacuate as it gained strength quickly while crossing the eastern Gulf of Mexico toward north Florida. It moved so fast that people didn't' have much time to prepare, and emergency authorities lamented that many ignored the warnings and seemed to think they could ride it out.

Limousine service operator charged in crash that killed 20

COBLESKILL, N.Y. (AP)—A limousine service operator was charged Wednesday with criminally negligent homicide in a crash that killed 20 people, while police continued investigating what caused the wreck and whether anyone else will face charges.

Nauman Hussain, 28, showed little emotion as he was arraigned Wednesday evening in an Albany-area court, and he ignored shouted questions from reporters as he left after posting $150,000 bond. A judge had entered a not guilty plea for him.

Earlier, his lawyer said that Hussain wasn't guilty and that police were rushing to judgment in investigating Saturday's stretch limo wreck .

But State Police Superintendent George Beach said Hussain hired a driver who shouldn't have been behind the wheel of such a car, and the vehicle shouldn't have been driven after state inspectors deemed it "unserviceable" last month.

"The sole responsibility for that motor vehicle being on the road on Saturday rests with Nauman Hussain," Beach said, though he noted that investigators continue looking into whether anyone else should be held accountable in the crash.

Hussain's car was packed with luggage when he was stopped Wednesday on a highway near Albany, Schoharie County District Attorney Susan Mallery said.

The lawyer for a limo service operator arrested in a crash that killed 20 people says police "jumped the gun in charging him with any crime." Nauman Hussain was charged with criminally negligent homicide in Saturday's crash in upstate New York. (Oct.10)

Hussain's lawyer, Lee Kindlon, said his client felt unsafe at home because he'd gotten threats.

The company, Prestige Limousine, has come under intense scrutiny since a 19-seater limo ran a stop sign and plowed into a parked SUV at the bottom of a long hill Saturday. The impact killed two pedestrians and 18 people in the limo, which was taking a group to a birthday bash.

Kindlon said his client handled only marketing duties and phone calls, while his father ran the company, though police called Hussain its operator.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of October 12, 2018

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Saipan Sea Ventures	09/24/2018 SPILR-2018-X-189	AST Removal	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial, Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 10/02/2018*
2. New Century Hotel, LLC	10/02/2018 SMS-2019-X-001	Hotel	Tanapag, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review*
3. The Rose Empire Corporation	10/03/2018 SPI-2019-X-002	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
4. Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC	10/09/2018 SMS-2015-X-029 Amendment 2019-1	Conditional Completion Extension	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review
5. Morihna M. Iguel	10/10/2018 SW-2018-X-183	Piggery & Solid Waste Enhancement Project	Tanapag, Saipan	Wetlands	Approved, 10/10/2018*
6. Docomo Pacific Saipan	10/06/2018 SSPIW-2015-X-075, Amendment 2018-1	Additional Underground Fiber Optic	Saipan	Shoreline, Ports & Industrial, Wetlands	Approved, 09/13/2018
7. Tinian Oceanview Corporation	09/05/2018 TLRm-2018-X-05	SCUBA	Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 09/19/2018
8. Construction Material & Supply, Inc.	10/05/2018 SMS-97-X-59 Amendment 2019-1	Quarry	Kannat Tabla, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Asia

New Indonesia quake kills 3 in Java village, shakes Bali

PALU, Indonesia (AP)—An earthquake collapsed homes on Indonesia's Java island, killing at least three people, and shook the tourist hotspot of Bali on Thursday, two weeks after a major quake-tsunami disaster in a central region of the archipelago.

Indonesia's disaster agency said the nighttime quake was centered at sea, 55 kilometers (34 miles) northeast of Situbondo city, and also felt in Lombok. The U.S. Geological Survey said it had a 6.0 magnitude.

■■■

PALU, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia's search for victims buried in Palu neighborhoods annihilated by an earthquake and tsunami is drawing to a close almost two weeks after the double disasters hit the remote city.

Authorities say the official search and rescue effort will end Thursday with mass prayers in areas such as Balaroa and Petobo, where the force of the quake liquefied soft soil and tore apart neighborhoods.

Volunteers and relatives of the missing are allowed to continue the grim searches of their own accord and disaster relief operations to support the tens of thousands left homeless are continuing.

The official death toll rose to 2,065 as of late Wednesday. Officially, 680 people are missing but officials have acknowledged the number could be several thousand because hundreds of homes were sucked into the earth.

■■■

The agency said the worst affected area was in Sumenep district, East Java where three people died in one village and several homes were damaged.

It said "the earthquake was felt quite strongly by people in Sumenep and Situbondo for 2-5 seconds. People poured out of their houses. In other areas the earthquake was felt to be moderate."

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are holding annual meetings on Bali through Sunday.

Some tourists and residents on Bali went outdoors as a precaution but then back to sleep when there was no tsunami warning.

The country is still working to recover from the earthquake and tsunami that killed more than 2,000 people and left perhaps thousands more buried deeply in mud in some neighborhoods of Palu city in central Sulawesi.

Disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said Wednesday the death toll from the double disaster on Sept. 28 has risen to 2,045, with most of the fatalities in the coastal city of Palu. More than 80,000 people are living in temporary shelters or otherwise displaced, he said.

Possibly 5,000 people were buried in places where the earthquake caused liquefaction, a phenomenon where wet soil weakens and collapses, becoming mud that sucks houses and everything else into the ground in a quicksand-like effect. Stretches of the coastline were trashed by the tsunami that Nugroho said had waves up to 11 meters (36 feet) high.

The official search for bodies will end Thursday with mass prayers in hard-hit neighborhoods, but Nugroho said volunteers and family members can continue searching. Memorials will be constructed in hard-hit neighborhoods such as Balaroa and Petobo, he said at a news conference in Jakarta.

"People are traumatized. They don't want to go back" to those places, Nugroho said. "They asked to be relocated to another place and a house made for them."

After making a rare appeal for international assistance, Indonesia is now trying to limit foreign involvement in the disaster relief effort. Nugroho said there's no need for international aid other than the four priorities identified by Indonesia—tents, water treatment units, generators and transport.

ASIAN BRIEFS

S. Korea walks back on possibly lifting sanctions on North

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has walked back on a proposal to lift some of its unilateral sanctions against North Korea following President Donald Trump's blunt response. Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha had said on Wednesday that Seoul was considering lifting measures applied after a deadly attack in 2010. She cited the intent to create more diplomatic momentum with the North, but Trump reacted by saying Seoul could "do nothing" without Washington's approval. Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said Thursday removing the sanctions has not been seriously considered and would be hard to do unless North Korea acknowledges responsibility for the 2010 attack. North Korea has fiercely denied it sunk the Cheonan warship, an attack that killed 46 South Korean sailors. Lifting the South's sanctions would have little effect since U.S.-led international sanctions remain.

Bangladesh sentences 19 to death in political rally attack

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A Bangladeshi court sentenced 19 people to death and the son of the opposition leader to life imprisonment on Wednesday over a deadly 2004 attack at a political rally held by current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The grenade attack killed two dozen people and wounded about 300 others. Hasina narrowly escaped, having been whisked away by party members to a waiting car from a dais in front of the headquarters of her Awami League party near where several grenades exploded. Judge Shahed Nuruddin delivered the verdicts—interrupted twice by power cuts—at the court in Dhaka for 49 defendants facing multiple charges stemming from the attack. Nuruddin said the attack was intended to eliminate the Awami League's leadership, including Hasina. He said parties in power in a democratic country must strive to consolidate democracy by following liberal policies, not killing opposition leaders. Lutfuzzaman Babar, one of two former Cabinet ministers among the 19 condemned to death, told reporters after the verdict that he was innocent. "God knows everything. I was not behind it," he said.

Threatened election officials flee Maldives, vote challenged

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Four of the five members of Maldives' Elections Commission have fled the country because of threats from supporters of outgoing President Yameen Abdul Gayoom, who accused them of rigging last month's presidential election in favor of the opposition candidate, the head of the commission said Wednesday. Yameen's party filed a complaint with police on Wednesday challenging the results of the election, in which he was decisively defeated by opposition candidate Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. Elections Commissioner Ahmed Shareef said groups of Yameen supporters had gathered in front of the members' homes and threatened them, accusing them of accepting bribes from the opposition. The opposition alliance said Yameen, who has rolled back many of Maldives' democratic reforms, is attempting to cling to power after initially conceding defeat.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-18-022

ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT
(W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline; connections to the existing waterlines; installation of gate valve assembly, PRV installations, PRV CMU protective boxes, flush hydrant, fencing, restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

*CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.*

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **November 2, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-18-022, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 15, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 6 , 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer – via email travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.cda.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BIDS
2019-CDA-01-IFB

SUBMISSION AND OPENING
DATE: Wednesday, October 31, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Supply of Desktop Computers for CDA"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 2nd Floor in Oleai, Saipan, during regular working hours.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
INVESTIGATOR V

Opening Date: 10/10/18 Closing Date: 10/25/18
POSITION: Investigator V EXAMINATION NO. OPA-18-002

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Gualo Rai. Completed Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) employment application form and pertinent documents must be submitted at OPA.

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opacnmi.com
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Email: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481

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ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, -V- ANTONIO B. EVANGELISTA, Defendant.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-1017

FIFTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Judgement issued by the Court in this matter on March 28, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot no. 060 T 115, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 924 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 060 T 04 dated May 5, 1983, the description being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, November 2, 2018, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 2nd day of October, 2018.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctionner

World

Turkish media: Video shows team of alleged Saudi assassins

ISTANBUL (AP)—Two Gulfstream jets carrying 15 Saudis landed at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport before dawn on the day last week that journalist Jamal Khashoggi entered the Saudi Consulate and vanished. The men checked into hotels and left Turkey later that night.

Turkish media, which released surveillance camera video of the men on Wednesday, said they were members of an elite Saudi "assassination squad," sent to kill Khashoggi, a Saudi critic.

Saudi Arabia remained silent at the accusation as the images were seen around the world, raising pressure on the kingdom to explain what happened to the writer, a critic of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Adding to the macabre mystery, a Turkish official told The Associated Press that one member of the team was an "autopsy expert."

Saudi Arabia has dismissed allegations it played a role in Khashoggi's disappearance as "baseless," but it has offered no evidence to support its contention he left the consulate unharmed last week and vanished into Istanbul while his fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, waited outside.

The video, shown on the state-run broadcaster TRT and others, did not offer definitive proof about Khashoggi's fate. Turkish officials have said that they fear the team killed him.

Turkish media close to the president published images on Wednesday of what it described as a 15-member "assassination squad" allegedly sent to target Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. (Oct. 10)

U.S. National security adviser John Bolton, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and White House senior adviser Jared Kushner have spoken to the crown prince about the 59-year-old Washington Post contributor, the White House announced.

President Donald Trump said the U.S. is "demanding" answers from its close ally, but he did not disclose any details.

"It's a very serious situation for us and this White House," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "We do not like seeing what's going on. Now, as you know, they're saying 'We had nothing to do with it.' But so far everyone's saying they had nothing to do with it."

Trump added: "Nobody knows what happened yet. We don't know what happened yet."

The Turkish security camera video was reminiscent of the surveillance video sleuthing done by officials investigating the assassination of a Hamas operative in Dubai in 2010 or the slaying of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's half brother in Malaysia in 2017.

The silent video showed one of two private Gulfstream jets that Turkish media said carried the Saudi group, who flew in and out of Istanbul on Oct. 2.

The footage shows some of the Saudis leaving a hotel and Khashoggi entering the consulate, walking past a black Mercedes van with diplomatic plates parked adjacent to the entrance. An hour and 54 minutes later, according to the time stamp, a black Mercedes van drives about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) to the consul's home, where it was parked in a garage.

The footage all seemed to come from surveillance cameras, which would have been located throughout the neighborhood housing the Saudi Consulate and other diplomatic missions. No footage has emerged of Khashoggi leaving the consulate.

Two Turkish officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to the AP because the investigation into Khashoggi's disappearance was still ongoing, confirmed the authenticity of the images in the Turkish media. One of the officials describes a member of the Saudi team as an "autopsy expert" amid earlier allegations that Khashoggi had been killed and dismembered.

AP

A man reads the Sabah newspaper, with a headline that reads "15-member assassination squad " in Ankara, Turkey, Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018.

WORLD BRIEFS

10 dead in torrential flooding on Spain's Mallorca island

MADRID (AP)—At least 10 people died on the Spanish island of Mallorca after a torrential rainstorm caused flash flooding that left a trail of piled vehicles and damaged infrastructure from surges of water and mud. Two British citizens and a Dutch woman were among the victims found Wednesday, one day after the rainfall, a spokeswoman with the regional emergency service said. The only missing person as of Wednesday afternoon was a 5-year-old boy who disappeared with his mother. The Civil Guard found the mother's body. Before floodwaters dragged her and the boy away, the woman reportedly managed to bring her 7-year-old daughter out of their vehicle, according to unidentified Civil Guard sources quoted by Spanish private news agency Europa Press. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said during a visit to the eastern coast of the island that the impacted area would be declared a "zone of catastrophe," which unlocks funds for recovery, reconstruction and compensation of victims.

Peru opposition leader Fujimori detained in corruption probe

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Former Peruvian presidential candidate Keiko Fujimori was detained on Wednesday as part of a money-laundering investigation, the latest political leader in the Andean nation to face scrutiny over alleged corruption. Photos of Fujimori covering her cuffed hands with a black jacket and escorted by police officers circulated on social media to the surprise of Peruvians who thought the powerful daughter of former President Alberto Fujimori would never see the inside of a jail cell. The conservative politician was taken into custody after she showed up at the chief prosecutor's office to provide testimony into an ongoing probe into dubious financial contributions to her 2011 presidential campaign. She will initially be held for 10 days. "They've persecuted me for 18 years and have so far not shown a single proof," Fujimori, 43, said in a defiant handwritten letter written from inside a police station and later posted on her Twitter account. "They aren't going to cut off our political project.....we must raise our voices!"

Russian suspect in UK poisoning is hero to his home village

LOYGA, Russia (AP)—As the recipient of Russia's highest award, Alexander Mishkin is the pride of his home village, his photo even decorating a local school.

Several residents of this remote hamlet located amid marshlands and deep forests in Russia's northwestern Arkhangelsk region easily recognized him in photos Wednesday as one of two men accused by British officials of poisoning a former Russian spy.

But to them he is just a warm-hearted local boy, a "Hero of Russia" who has made a successful career as a military doctor thanks to his hard work and courage.

"He studied at school here," said Yuri Poroshin, an amateur painter who lives in Loyga. "His picture even hangs on the wall there because he's a Hero of Russia."

Poroshin said he heard that Mishkin received Russia's highest medal for saving the life of his commanding officer during fighting with Islamist rebels in Chechnya.

According to British police, two agents of Russia's GRU military intelligence agency, traveling under the aliases Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov, used the Soviet-made nerve agent Novichok to poison former Russian double-agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, in the English city of Salisbury in March.

This week, the investigative group Bellingcat identified Petrov as Dr. Alexander Mishkin, a GRU agent who had received Russia's highest award. Previously the group had uncovered the real identity of Boshirov, determining that he is GRU Col. Anatoly Chepiga.

Bellingcat, which based its probe on passport information, residents' databases, car registration documents and phone records, determined that the 39-year-old Mishkin grew up in Loyga before moving to St. Petersburg, where he studied medicine at the elite Kirov Military Medical Academy.

Some Loyga residents corroborated that account, confirming that Mishkin was trained as a military doctor.

They said he continued to visit Loyga, where his 90-year-old grandmother, a respected local general practitioner, still lives.

Poroshin's wife, Valentina Poroshina, fondly remembers Mishkin, whom she last spoke to on a train four years ago. "He was a good boy," she said. "He was very polite."

Poroshin also immediately recognized Mishkin when shown the photos released by British police. "Yes, that's him. He looks like his dad and grandmother," he said.

The Poroshins' granddaughter, Yulia, said that Mishkin was lauded as a role model at her school. "We even have a portfolio on him," the sixth-grader said.

Several other villagers also recognized Mishkin but wouldn't talk about him further.

However, village manager Svetlana Lukina denied the man in the photos was Mishkin, saying she didn't recognize him.

"People are looking for something to entertain themselves with," Lukina said nervously after being shown the pictures by an Associated Press reporter. "They make it all up out of nothing. His family hasn't lived here for a long time. It's all rumors and hearsay."

On Wednesday, the village was largely desolate, with only the occasional big-wheeled all-terrain vehicle able to navigate its unpaved dirt roads. A few people, some of them drunk, passed by on its streets covered with wooden planks.

"Only those who have nowhere to go are left here," Poroshin said. "Only drinkers and pensioners are left. Good young people are all gone."

The gray two-story brick school building was locked on Wednesday, a note announcing a ban on taking photos and videos pinned next to the door. A school employee told an AP reporter through the glass pane to go away.

Focus

Sense of impunity emboldens autocrats to get rid of enemies

By SARAH EL DEEB and LEE KEATH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

In this Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2018 file photo, a security guard walks in the Saudi Arabia consulate in Istanbul, Turkey. The disappearance of Khashoggi, during a visit to his country's consulate in Istanbul last week, raises a dark question for anyone who dares criticize governments or speak out against those in power: Will the world have their back?

BEIRUT (AP)—The disappearance of a prominent Saudi journalist raises a dark question for anyone who dares criticize governments or speak out against those in power: Will the world have their back?

Dictators and autocrats have always sought to silence dissenters, even ones that flee abroad to escape their grasp. They seem to only get bolder in turning to their playbook of detention, threats and killings.

That may in part be because, despite decades of talk of human rights in international circles, violations get only muted reproaches.

In the United States, the Trump administration avoids strenuous criticism of human rights abuses by allies, like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel and the Philippines, or leaders it seeks to cultivate ties with, like Russia, China and North Korea.

President Donald Trump's denunciations of "globalism" and tough stance against the International Criminal Court also have signaled that Washington has little interest in international enforcement against violators of human rights. Western countries have turned inwards, buffeted by rising xenophobic forces — and autocrats have either benefited from the vacuum or received outright support.

So when Turkish officials said they believed Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi had been killed last week after disappearing during a visit to his country's consulate in Istanbul, there was good reason to wonder whether there would be serious repercussions.

So too when China detained the now former Interpol chief after capturing him midair — the latest Chinese figure to vanish only to appear in court, accused of corruption.

So too when Russia was accused of poisoning an ex-spy in Britain.

Often economic and diplomatic interests lead countries to overlook killings, even of their own citizens.

In one of the most chilling recent cases, an Italian postgraduate student, Giulio Regeni, was found dumped on the side of a road outside the Egyptian capital, Cairo, his body mutilated and his bones broken. Suspicion in Italy immediately fell on Egypt's security forces, notorious for their use of torture. But nearly three years later, no one has been blamed, and while Italy says it continues to investigate, it has forged ahead with ties with Egypt, particularly with the development of a natural gas field off Egypt's coast by Italy's largest energy company, ENI.

Sara Kayyali, a researcher on Syria for Human Rights Watch, said Khashoggi's disappearance "is not just sad, it is terrifying."

"We are all taken aback by the lack of condemnation by any of our traditional allies for the acts that we are seeing happen, most recently with Jamal's case. I think it is a very challenging time for all of us and our traditional allies are not around," she said. "It looks like it is the age of impunity, but we won't let it go."

THE ARAB DIASPORA

After the wave of pro-democracy protests that shook the Arab world in 2011 came the backlash — brutal crackdowns. As millions from Syria, Iraq, Egypt and Libya left their home countries, autocrats have tracked the vocal critics among them.

The Khashoggi disappearance has shaken the large community of Arab exiles who found relative safety in Turkey, said an Egyptian dissident who fled his country after the 2013 massacre. He had met Khashoggi only days earlier. He said he is considering where to go next, adding that his wife just got a job in Saudi Arabia, but he's afraid to go there. He spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing for his safety.

"It is a whole new level of dangerous," he said. It harkens back to the days when Libya's Moammar Gadhafi called his opponents in diaspora "stray dogs" and sent death squads to shoot them down in European capitals.

One prominent Libyan defector, Mansour al-Kikhia vanished from Cairo in 1993. His fate was unknown until 2012, a year after Gadhafi's ouster and death, when his body was found in a freezer in an intelligence building in Libya.

A Bahraini dissident living in Britain, Sayed Alwadaei, said these days he was afraid for his wife when she had to go to the embassy to notarize legal representation for a pending trial against her at home.

"We did not trust that if she goes to the embassy, she will leave unharmed," he said.

Bahrain's Embassy in London dismissed Alwadaei's concerns as "nothing more than a cynical attempt to exploit a current news story."

Today's dissidents have more tools to speak their mind from exile, making them more dangerous in the eyes of regimes back home. But the autocrats' toolkit is also more diverse.

Those in exile in Turkey say their governments have infiltrated their circles, spying on them physically and through social media. One Egyptian activist said he fled his refuge in Turkey after nearly five years because government spies infiltrated the opposition TV station he had set up.

With the government gaining more ground in Syria, activists fear they will now be chased in diaspora.

One prominent exiled Syrian, Rami Abdurrahman, who has monitored the war for years and has now become a British citizen, said he got word that a senior Syrian military official named him in meetings as the next target, "wherever I am."

RUSSIA

Russia has been accused of going after turncoat spies without paying much attention to borders and international norms.

In 2006, former Russian security officer Alexander Litvinenko, who fled to Britain and became a harsh critic of President Vladimir Putin, died after drinking tea laced with radioactive polonium-210 in London. Investigations concluded that Russia's security service killed him, likely on Putin's orders. The Russian government has denied any responsibility.

In March, former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter were found unconscious in the English city of Salisbury after being exposed to a Soviet-designed nerve agent known as Novichok. They spent weeks in critical condition but survived. Months later, a civilian died after being accidentally exposed to the poison.

British officials said the attack on the Skripals received approval "at a senior level of the Russian state" and announced charges in absentia against two Russian agents. The British government says it has evidence the men work for the Russian military intelligence agency. Moscow denies any role in the poisoning.

In retaliation, Britain, European Union countries and the United States expelled dozens of Russian diplomats, Britain put greater scrutiny on Russian funds, and Washington imposed limited financial sanctions. Still, Trump was reluctant to speak out strongly against the attack.

CHINA

China's President Xi Jinping has increasingly defied foreign governments and international rights groups, bolstered by his country's global economic clout, military power and diplomatic weight. That's raised concerns over the fate of civic society within the country, as well as the risks of appointing Chinese officials to positions in international organizations.

Xi has waged a broad anti-corruption campaign that has ensnared numerous political foes — including among Chinese communities outside the country.

The most recent to fall afoul is Interpol's president, Meng Hongwei, who was taken into custody upon arriving in Beijing late last month. The Ministry of Public Security has since said that Meng, who left his post, was being investigated for accepting bribes and other crimes that were a result of his "willfulness."

Such vague accusations are typical in China's highly opaque judicial system that has jailed figures such as the dissident writer and late Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo.

Beijing-based independent political analyst Zhang Lifan said China's handling of the Meng case undermines the leadership's insistence that theirs is a country "ruled by law."

"In China disappearance is something that happens quite often," Zhang said. "It's just that this time it was presented to the international public in such a special way."

ASSASSINATIONS AND RENDITIONS

A tenuous place in the ruling dynasty is no protection: witness one of the most brazen instances of assassination in recent memory, when North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's estranged half-brother King Jong Nam died in 2017 at an airport in Malaysia in an attack that authorities said used VX nerve agent.

In March, the Trump administration referred to it only indirectly, hedging perhaps with an eye to future diplomacy. Washington only determined that Pyongyang used chemical weapons, an apparent reference to the killing without going into any further detail.

Israel and the Palestinians have a history of assassinations. Israel's Mossad killed several top PLO and Hamas leaders in the Arab world and Gaza, while a Palestinian splinter group attempted and failed to kill the Israeli ambassador to the United Kingdom in 1982. Palestinian militants assassinated Israel's tourism minister in 2001. Tehran has blamed Israel for a series of slayings of top Iranian nuclear scientists earlier this decade.

During the post-9/11 'war on terror' under President George W. Bush, the CIA program of "extraordinary rendition" and torture of suspects to secret "black sites" was a key U.S. strategy in neutralizing the enemy. More than 50 countries participated with some like Poland and Lithuania allowing the jails to be run on their territory.

And of course, the United States carried out the most noteworthy assassination of this century when Navy SEALs under President Barack Obama's direction tracked down Osama bin Laden in Pakistan and killed him in 2011.

"It may take time, but we have long memories, and our reach has no limits," Obama would say, in his last State of the Union address.

Off The Wall

Man determined to walk again after blood infection from dog

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A Wisconsin man who lost his hands, feet and parts of his arms and legs to a rare blood infection transmitted by dog saliva was praised by his doctors Tuesday for his positive outlook and determination to walk again with prosthetics.

Greg Manteufel, 48, was discharged two weeks ago from the Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Since late June, he has undergone at least 10 surgeries during which surgeons amputated parts of each of his limbs because circulation to his extremities shut down due to the infection.

"Through all of this, the real star of the show is Greg. He's had the most positive attitude of any patient I have ever met and he's approached this with a fight that I don't think I've seen in any patient," Dr. Patrick Hettinger, a plastic surgeon, said during a news conference about Manteufel's recovery.

Manteufel, who worked as a house painter before his illness, started feeling sick on June 26, with a fever and pain and his legs. When he was eventually taken to the hospital, doctors found he had contracted a rare blood infection caused by capnocytophaga (cap-noh-seye-TOF'-ah-gah) bacteria that are commonly found in the saliva of cats and dogs and that almost never lead to people getting sick.

Manteufel has a dog, but doctors don't know if it was his pet or another dog that gave him the infection.

"I just couldn't believe it," Manteufel told reporters. "I've been around dogs my whole life. It's hard to take, you know?"

Manteufel's horrific ordeal hasn't changed his love of dogs. His wife, Dawn Manteufel, said one of the first things their dog did when her husband returned home was snuggle up with him to watch the Green Bay Packers.

"I still like dogs," he said.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, up to 74 percent of dogs and up to 57 percent of cats carry capnocytophaga. People also have a different strain of the same bacteria in their mouths.

The CDC doesn't track the number of infections from capnocytophaga because they're so rare.

Manteufel still has a long way to go with his recovery. The loss of circulation that cost him part of his limbs also almost took his nose and upper lip and will require reconstructive surgery in stages over the next year, Hettinger said.

His prosthetics also will be fitted in stages as his skin and wounds begin to heal, said Dr. David Del Toro, physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist at the hospital.

Manteufel said his main goal is to walk and drive again "so I can get back on with life, not just be stuck somewhere."

Del Toro said he has no doubt he'll achieve that.

"No one has the determination of Greg. I believe he's going to achieve all his goals, it's just going to take a long journey," Del Toro said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Connecticut family reunited with dog missing for 5 years

NORWICH, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut family has been reunited with their dog five years after the beloved pet went missing. The Norwich Bulletin reports that Norwich Assistant Animal Control Officer Donna Gremminger spotted the 17-year-old female dachshund last Thursday in a parking lot in a city park. She had lost most of her sight and hearing. Through a microchip, they identified the dog's owners as Rick and Michelle Riendeau, of Brooklyn, Connecticut, about 20 miles from Norwich, and reunited them Monday. An emotional Rick Riendeau said he contacted animal control when the dog, named Lady, first went missing. He said because they live near a wooded area, they feared she may have been killed by a predator, or had wandered off. He called Lady "the greatest dog we've ever had."

Happy news: Beluga whale in Thames eating, swimming well

LONDON (AP)—British officials say the beluga whale spotted in the River Thames seems to be feeding properly and swimming strongly. The animal welfare group RSPCA said Wednesday the whale is "able to move fast in the water and dive." Officials hope it will return to the open sea. The beluga whale attracted a plenty of attention Tuesday when it surfaced in the River Thames. The unusual sighting happened in the Gravesend area, 30 miles (50 kilometers) east of London. Belugas are typically found farther north in frigid Arctic waters. Officials say nearby ships have heeded the call to stay far away from the whale to avoid upsetting it. RSPCA says "at the moment, there are no major concerns for the welfare of the animal."

Injured turtle gets around on Lego wheelchair while healing

BALTIMORE (AP)—A wild turtle with a broken shell is rolling around on a wheelchair made of Legos while he's on the mend at the Maryland Zoo. News outlets report that veterinarians had performed surgery on the grapefruit-sized eastern box turtle found in July with fractures to the underside of his shell. Zoo veterinary extern Garrett Fraess says keeping the shell bottom off the ground is important so it can heal. Fraess says no one makes turtle-sized wheelchairs, so he sent sketches to a friend who's a Lego enthusiast. A few weeks after the surgery, the turtle had the wheelchair, which gets the shell off the ground and allows his legs to move. Dr. Ellen Bronson says the turtle likely will use the wheelchair into the spring.

Los Angeles has its 1st electric scooter DUI prosecution

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles man has been fined $550 and ordered to pay restitution for riding an electric scooter while intoxicated and knocking over a 64-year-old pedestrian on a sidewalk. The City Attorney's Office said Thursday the prosecution of 28-year-old Nicholas Kauffroath was the first motorized scooter driving under the influence legal case with a charge in Los Angeles. The office says in a statement that Kauffroath on Aug. 4 had a blood-alcohol level more than three times the limit while operating a Bird scooter. The pedestrian was knocked down leaving a theater and suffered a knee abrasion while the rider continued on. Kauffroath pleaded no contest to operating a motorized scooter under the influence and hit-and-run. He was placed on 36 months of probation and must complete a DUI program.

Science & Technology

Facebook launches camera

This image provided by Facebook shows the company's product called Portal Plus. AP

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Facebook is launching the first electronic device to bear its brand, a screen and camera-equipped gadget intended to make video calls easier and more intuitive.

But it's unclear if people will open their homes to an internet-connected camera sold by a company with a questionable track record on protecting user privacy.

Facebook is marketing the device, called Portal, as a way for its more than 2 billion users to chat with one another without having to fuss with positioning and other controls. The device features a camera that uses artificial intelligence to automatically zoom as people move around during calls.

Since Echo's release nearly four years ago, both Google and Apple have followed Amazon in releasing smart speakers designed for use with their other digital services—some of them, at least. These speakers can serve as hub-like controllers for "smart" homes as people install appliances, lighting and security systems that can be controlled over the internet.

Portal represents Facebook's entry into that fray. But pointing an artificially intelligent camera into peoples' homes could well raise other privacy questions.

"The first thing consumers are going to wonder is 'how much sensitive data is this collecting about me?'" said John Breyault, vice president of public policy of telecommunications and fraud at the National Consumers League, a Washington-based consumer advocacy group that has received donations from Facebook and other tech companies.

On Monday, Twitter users were quick to point to Facebook's privacy fallacies and what they saw as the company's impudence in asking people to trust it with a camera called Portal inside their homes. Some compared it to the always-on, always-watching telescreens in George Orwell's dystopian novel "1984." Others saw the gadget's appeal—but not if it comes from Facebook.

It's a particularly trying time for Facebook to release a home camera. Earlier this year, the company had to acknowledge that as many as 87 million people may have had their data accessed by Cambridge Analytica, a data mining firm that worked for the Trump campaign and aimed to use the data to influence elections. More recently, Facebook revealed that hackers managed to pierce its security to break into 50 million accounts .

Facebook says it won't "listen to, view or keep the contents " of video calls, adding that the Portal camera won't use facial recognition or identify people in the video calls. The device will allow users to disable the camera and microphone with a single tap and to lock it with a numerical passcode. There's also a physical camera cover to prevent recording.

Portal will not display Facebook ads "at this time," the company said, although it noted that third-party services such as music streaming might embed their own ads the same way they do on other devices.

The company says Facebook's privacy policy applies to Portal, since it uses Messenger for voice and video calls. Facebook executives have repeatedly said that the company does not use the contents of messages or calls for advertising purposes and will not do so in the future. Still, there are other, less direct possibilities for the future.

Science Matters
Early birds: Fossil's tale of tail feathers
A newly discovered bird species found among 127 million-year-old fossils in China sheds new light on how birds developed during the early evolution of flight.
Jinguofortis perplexus, lived in the early Cretaceous Period (end of the Age of Dinosaurs)
Size of a small crow
1 Short bony tail ending in a compound bone (pygostyle)
2 Jaw with small teeth, like its therapod dinosaur relatives (two-legged carnivores)
3 Gizzard stones showing that it mostly ate plants or seeds
4 Relatively short wings like modern birds' would have helped it maneuver when flying in dense forests
A milestone in evolution of flight
This creature lived after birds lost their long bony tail, but before they evolved flght feathers on shorter tails
Archaeopteryx, a very early long-tailed bird
Modern fan-tailed birds
Wing
Wing
Skull
Teeth
Hand
Covert feather
Tail bone
Leg
5 cm
Source: Wang Min, Thomas Stidham and Zhou Zhonghe of Chinese Academy of Sciences; Proceedings of the National (US) Academy of Sciences
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Coroner: Verne Troyer death suicide by alcohol intoxication

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Verne Troyer, best known for his role as Mike Myers' comical sidekick "Mini-Me" in the "Austin Powers" movie franchise, died last April of suicide by alcohol intoxication, the Los Angeles County coroner's office reported Wednesday.

Troyer had a potentially fatal level of alcohol in his system and was saying repeatedly that he wanted to die when he was admitted to a Los Angeles hospital on April 3, according to the coroner's report. He died there on April 21 of multiple organ failure.

The report concluded that Troyer's death was caused by "sequelae of alcohol intoxication."

Sequelae is a term defining an action or condition leading to another ailment or, in this case, death.

"Based on the history and circumstances as currently known, the manner of death is suicide," Deputy Medical Examiner Martina Kennedy wrote in the report.

Troyer, who weighed only 55 pounds, arrived at the hospital with a blood-alcohol level above 300 mg/ml, enough to be fatal in some adults.

He had called paramedics to his home, saying repeatedly during his 911 call that he wanted to die. He would repeat those words again in the hospital's emergency room, according to the report.

Troyer

Troyer's representatives said at the time that the 49-year-old actor had struggled with depression and thoughts of suicide. He had been admitted to a hospital in similar condition the year before.

Troyer, who stood just 2-feet-8-inches tall, was born with achondroplasia, a genetic condition that limited his height.

He became a star playing Mini-Me to Myers' Dr. Evil and Austin Powers in the 1999 film "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" and its 2002 sequel "Austin Powers in Goldmember."

He also played banker-goblin Griphook in "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" and appeared in dozens of TV shows, videos and other films in a career spanning more than 20 years.

After his hospitalization last year, he was candid about his drinking problem, saying he had followed up with a stint at a rehab center.

"As you know, I've battled alcohol addiction in the past and while it's not always been an easy fight, I'm willing to continue my fight day by day," he told People magazine at the time.

Once vowing not to record anymore, Elvis Costello is back

NEW YORK (AP)—Besides the fact that he's still here, Elvis Costello's fans can be grateful that he's open to changing his mind.

While something short of a vow, Costello said in 2010 that he didn't plan to record anymore. Yet on Friday, he releases "Look Now," his second disc since that declaration. The lush showcase for his backing band, the Imposters, is musically inspired by Dusty Springfield's "Dusty in Memphis" and has a renewed collaboration with Burt Bacharach at its heart.

That Costello, 64, is around to talk about it is because he was treated for what was described as a small, but aggressive form of cancer earlier this year. The world learned about it, somewhat to his regret, when he had to cancel some concerts.

The changing music business had taught Costello, like other older artists, that there was a diminishing return to recording.

"I didn't feel like I could justify the vanity of making records, compared to making my living with what I do most of the time, which is do shows," he told The Associated Press. "Up until that point, it had always been that (recording and touring) were connected, and it was just finding a way to disconnect them again."

Thus began his "impresario years." He's had a handful of themed concert tours, including one focusing on the period around his "Imperial Bedroom" album and another accompanied by a game show-like "spinning songbook" that determined the evening's set list.

He didn't stop writing, however, much of it aimed toward theater. He and the 90-year-old Bacharach, with whom he made the 1998 record, "Painted From Memory," are working on a stage show.

While waiting for that to progress, longtime drummer Pete Thomas encouraged Costello to record some of the new material that had backed up. Costello recognized that his three-piece band had never really shown its range on a single CD, and concentrated on the garage band side of his diverse catalogue while in concert.

The work on "Look Now" is ballad-heavy and lightly soulful, with plenty of space for the rhythm section of Thomas and Davey Faragher, the keyboards of Steve Nieve, orchestration and backing vocals. This was his original idea for a follow-up to "Painted From Memory" years ago, although Costello didn't get to it. He said it benefits from the extra time and experience.

"Do we sound like we're old?" he said. "No, we sound like we know what we're doing and are alert to the possibilities. We could play it a lot of ways but we decided to play it like this."

He said he's "tremendously happy that I went in and did it with these guys."

Make-up, wig, cackle. Actress becomes witch at Universal

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—"Scare-actor" Laura Law once frightened a patron so badly at Universal Orlando Resort's Halloween Horror Nights that the woman peed in her pants.

AP

In this Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018 photo, make up artist Eric Garcia, left, continues the process of turning Laura Law into a witch for Halloween Horror nights at Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla.

Graceful and mild-mannered, the 31-year-old actress didn't come across as someone who could have such an effect when she arrived recently for her transformation into the Wicked Witch of the West for the 28th year of Universal Orlando's celebration of all-things-horror. Law has been a "scare-actor" for five years.

She was already in her purple tights and black dress, her red-hair was in a ponytail and her green contact lenses were in by the time she plopped down in a makeup chair. A black smock protected her dress as makeup designer Eric Garcia prepared to work his cosmetic witchcraft on her pale face.

"It's fun to be creepy and scary, right?" she said.

Halloween Horror Nights is an all-hands-on-deck affair at the Orlando, Florida theme park resort, as well as at Universal theme parks in California, Japan and Singapore. This year, the Orlando Halloween celebration will have 10 haunted houses, several recalling slasher films or pop culture from the 1980s, including a house modeled after the Netflix hit TV show, "Stranger Things."

Halloween Horror Nights lasts for 36 nights, but it's planned for more than a year. Each haunted house is a small, temporary attraction, elaborately designed and themed, built with studious attention to details and populated with "scare-actors" who chase but never touch the thousands of patrons passing through each night. This year's Halloween celebration opened in mid-September.

"I don't think anybody does it bigger or better than we do," said Patrick Braillard, creative development show director at Universal Orlando.

In the makeup chair, Garcia applied glue to Law's face. Next came a rubbery prosthetic that Garcia placed over her nose and forehead. Its whiteness gave her a "Phantom of the Opera" look and its shape gave her a hook nose and textured skin. Garcia then placed on a white, pointed chin prosthetic and started painting her face with white and flesh colors using a small sponge. He painted on black eyebrows and small wrinkles with a tiny brush. She said, "People don't think it's a real thing, but you can smell the fear in people a little bit."

Weinstein in court as judge mulls future of other sex assault cases

NEW YORK (AP)—Harvey Weinstein is set to appear before a New York judge on Thursday as his lawyers try to get charges dismissed in his criminal case.

Judge James Burke is expected to issue rulings Thursday on defense motions seeking to dismiss some or all of a six-count indictment accusing Weinstein of rape and sexual assault.

Weinstein's lawyer, Ben Brafman, has said in court filings that prosecutors withheld evidence that would have made the grand jury think twice about charging him, such as friendly emails one accuser sent after the alleged rape.

Weinstein has pleaded not guilty and is free on $1 million bail.

The hearing comes a year and a day after The New Yorker first published allegations by one accuser in the case, Lucia Evans.

In the story, Evans accused Weinstein of forcing her to perform oral sex when they met alone in his office in 2004 to discuss her fledgling acting career. At the time, Evans was a 21-year-old college student.

Weinstein's lawyers and prosecutors had been wrangling over the part of the indictment pertaining to Evans' allegations over the last few weeks in closed-door meetings and sealed court papers. In one publicly filed document, prosecutors said they were investigating evidence that hasn't been made public.

Weinstein's legal team argued in court papers that prosecutors hadn't properly identified the day on which Evans alleged she had been assaulted. She told interviewers only that it had happened over the summer months between semesters at school.

Evans' lawyer, Carrie Goldberg, insisted the case was strong.

"We know of no evidence refuting our client's report that Harvey Weinstein forcefully sexually assaulted her," she said in a statement.

The Manhattan District Attorney's office declined comment.

While more than 75 women have publicly accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct over the past year, the criminal case in New York City involves the allegations of just three women: Evans, an unidentified woman who says he raped her in a hotel room in 2013, and an actress who said Weinstein performed a forcible sex act on her in 2006.

The New York City Police Department said in a statement it "remains fully confident in the overall case it has pursued against Mr. Weinstein. The evidence shows that the criminal case against him is strong."

Brafman has called the charges against Weinstein a product of political pressure amid the #MeToo outcry.

New York appeals courts have said prosecutors aren't obliged to present grand jurors with all forms of evidence that could favor a defendant, but the courts also have noted that prosecutors are obliged to seek justice and not just convictions.

The Associated Press generally does not identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they consent to being identified publicly, as Evans has.

AP: Cardi B, Post Malone won't compete for new artist Grammy

NEW YORK (AP)—Cardi B and Post Malone marked major breakthroughs in the last year, but the rap stars won't compete for best new artist at the 2019 Grammy Awards.

Cardi B, who earned two nominations at this year's Grammys held in February, was not eligible for nomination because of her previous nominations. The Grammys, which has adjusted the rules of best new artist over the years to keep up with the changing musical landscape, state that "any artist with a previous Grammy nomination as a performer" would not qualify. If Cardi B had not released an album around the time she earned her first pair of nominations for "Bodak Yellow," she could have qualified. But because she had enough music to be eligible for best new artist at the 2018 show and earned prior nominations, she was not qualified to enter the category.

A person familiar with the situation, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to publicly discuss the topic, said Cardi B was submitted for best new artist at this year's show, though she didn't earn a nomination. The award went to Alessia Cara, while nominees included SZA, Khalid, Lil Uzi Vert and Julia Michaels.

Post Malone was also submitted for best new artist at this year's show but didn't garner a nomination. Because he had never earned a Grammy nomination, he met the criteria to be a best new artist contender for the upcoming awards show, but at a Grammy nominations meeting held this month his inclusion in the category was met with debate, the person said. Malone lost in a vote by music industry players—ranging from executives to producers to publicists—and will not compete for the coveted honor.

AP

This combination photo shows rappers Post Malone, left, and Cardi B at the MTV Video Music Awards in New York on Aug. 20, 2018.

Some felt because the hitmaker had success with his 2016 debut, "Stoney," as well as the hit songs "Congratulations" and "White Iverson"—released in 2015—he had already past new artist status.

A representative for Post Malone declined comment Wednesday. A representative for Cardi B did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The first round of voting for the 2019 Grammy nominations begins Oct. 17. Nominees will be announced Dec. 5 and best new artist will include eight contenders instead of five for the first time. The show airs live on Feb. 10.

The best new artist rules state that an artist can be submitted three times and is eligible so long as they have only released three albums or 30 tracks. Some artists, for example, earned nominations with second and third albums since those records marked their major breakthroughs as rising acts on the music scene.

Malone was also a hot topic at the Grammys meeting for his recent album, "Beerbongs & Bentleys," which was kicked out of the rap category and pushed into the pop genre, the source said. Best rap album nominees must contain 51 percent or more of rap music, and the Grammys rap committee felt "Beerbongs" leaned more toward the pop genre with its the production, sound and melodies. The diverse album also includes singing, elements of R&B and rock and veers outside of rap with songs like the guitar-tinged "Stay." The person said the larger Grammys committee listened to the entire 18-track album—which includes the No. 1 hits "Rockstar" and "Psycho" as well as "Better Now," currently No. 4 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart—and voted that it would compete in pop instead of rap.

Royal wedding roles for 2

LONDON (AP)—Prince George and Princess Charlotte will be among the pageboys and bridesmaids at the wedding of Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank.

Five-year-old George and 3-year-old Charlotte, the elder children of Prince William and his wife Kate, will join children including 7-year-old Savannah Phillips, 6-year-old Isla Phillips and 4-year-old Mia Tindall—all great-grandchildren of Queen Elizabeth II—and Theodora Williams, 6-year-old daughter of pop star Robbie Williams and his wife Ayda Williams.

Buckingham Palace said Wednesday that Eugenie has asked elder sister Princess Beatrice to be her maid of honor. The best man will be Thomas Brooksbank, the groom's brother.

The 28-year-old princess, who is ninth in line to the throne, is due to marry liquor company executive Brooksbank Friday in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

Kaepernick, Chappelle getting Harvard black culture awards

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick and comedian Dave Chappelle are among eight people being saluted by Harvard University for their contributions to black history and culture.

All eight recipients of the W.E.B. Du Bois Medal will be honored Thursday afternoon by the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard.

Kaepernick, formerly of the San Francisco 49ers, created a firestorm when he began kneeling during the national anthem in 2016 to protest police brutality and social injustice.

The other honorees are Kenneth Chenault, chairman and a managing director of General Catalyst; Shirley Ann Jackson, president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Pamela Joyner, founder of Avid Partners, LLC; psychologist and author Florence Ladd; Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative; and artist Kehinde Wiley.

Rapper Fabolous faces domestic violence, threats charges

HACKENSACK, N.J. (AP)—A grand jury in New Jersey has indicted rapper Fabolous on counts of domestic violence and making terroristic threats.

The rapper, whose real name is John Jackson, was charged in connection with two alleged incidents in Englewood in March.

The indictment handed up last week in Bergen County charges him with one count of domestic violence stemming from an incident on March 7. He's charged with two counts for allegedly threatening to shoot or kill three individuals on March 28, including the alleged victim from the earlier incident.

He also faces a weapons count for allegedly brandishing a pair of scissors with intent to use them unlawfully.

Each of the four third-degree crimes carries a maximum sentence of five years.

Jackson's attorney didn't immediately return a message seeking comment.

'Real Housewives' husband Joe Giudice to be deported

YORK, Pa. (AP)—The husband of "Real Housewives of New Jersey" star Teresa Giudice will be deported back to Italy once he's released from prison next year, according to a judge's ruling Wednesday.

Giuseppe "Joe" Giudice appeared before an immigration court in York, Pennsylvania, via teleconference. He has 30 days to appeal the decision, said Kathryn Mattingly, a spokeswoman for the Executive Office of Immigration Review.

Giudice is an Italian citizen who came to the U.S. as an infant and wasn't aware he wasn't an American citizen.

He's currently serving a more than 3-year sentence for fraud and failing to pay taxes. He's incarcerated at FCI Allenwood, about 165 miles (266 kilometers) northwest of Philadelphia.

Prison records indicate he is set to be released in March.

The couple pleaded guilty in 2014 to bankruptcy fraud and submitting false loan applications to get $5 million in mortgages and construction loans. Joe Giudice also pleaded guilty to not paying about $200,000 in income taxes.

Teresa Giudice served nearly a year in prison and was freed in December 2015.

Messages seeking comment from the couple's lawyers and Teresa Giudice's publicist weren't immediately returned Wednesday.

Tattoo with ex-wife's name is an annoyance to girlfriend

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend is divorced. His ex's name is tattooed on his arm. Although I don't like it, I realize that it was long ago and before I came into the picture.

As we have grown closer over the last two years, I'm often tempted to ask him to have it removed or covered up. I think it's tacky, and I don't like it AT ALL. I know I can't demand he remove it, but would a gentle request do? Or should I wait until I have more of a formal status in his life?

LOOKING AWAY IN THE SOUTH

DEAR LOOKING AWAY: Tattoo removal isn't as easy as waving a magic wand and presto!—it's gone. The process can take several sessions, can be quite painful, and it must be done by a professional. If this is so important to you that you would put him through that, then ask him nicely. When you do it is up to you. You could jokingly ask him to have a circle with a diagonal line through it added to his ex's name.

DEAR ABBY: My best friend of 25 years just got engaged. I suspect her fiance is gay or there's something seriously wrong with him. They have been dating for eight months and he hasn't once tried to have sex with her. He has used every excuse under the sun as to why (bad back, tired, etc.).

He recently proposed to her in a public place in front of his family. I don't think he knows the real her, and I don't think she understands the serious implications of her decision to marry him when sexual intimacy was so important to her before. She once told me she would not marry a man without first having sex with him, and that a sexless life is her biggest fear. I feel I should speak up as her best friend. Should I?

SEEING RED FLAGS IN GEORGIA

DEAR SEEING: Yes. And when you do, urge her to get into premarital counseling with her fiance. During the sessions, matters like sex, finances and child-rearing should be discussed so there won't be any "surprises" later. Repeat your suggestion, if necessary, until she reaches the altar. Let's hope she listens to you because his fatigue and bad back won't magically disappear after they say "I do."

DEAR ABBY: A little backstory before my question. I am 39 and the mother of three beautiful daughters, ages 18, 12 and 8. I am getting a divorce. It's an amicable one (thank goodness), and my girls are doing pretty OK with the news.

During this last year, I graduated with my AA degree. I am very proud of the achievement, but have never had a celebration. Would it be in bad taste to have a housewarming, graduation and almost-40 birthday party (my birthday is on a major holiday, and my friends are usually busy doing other things that night) and ask for gifts for my new house and the girls' bedrooms?

CELEBRATING IN IDAHO

DEAR CELEBRATING: A party would be wonderful because you have much to celebrate. Send invitations describing it as a "housewarming, graduation celebration and 40th birthday party," but do NOT mention gifts on the invitation. If someone asks about it, feel free to tell the person. But to ask for gifts on an invitation is a no-no.

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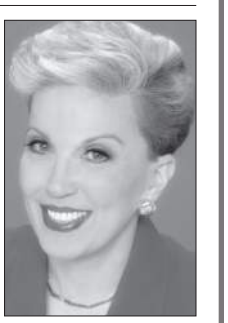
DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

DARN, NO ONE HAS RESPONDED TO MY SINGLES AD.
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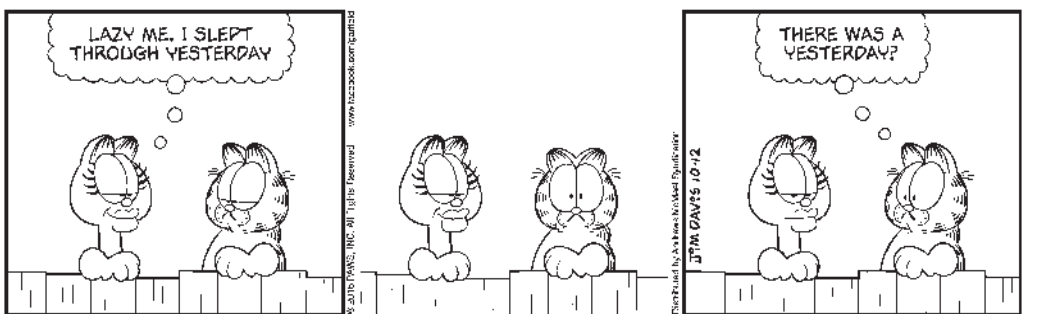
I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I PLACED IT IN "USED APPLIANCES."

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

"FRESH MOONLIGHT"? HOW IS MOONLIGHT A SCENT?
I DON'T KNOW. GIVE IT A SNIFF.
PFF
IT SMELLS LIKE OLD LADY PERFUME AND ROTTEN MELONS HAD A BABY.
YEAH. THAT JINGLE'S GONNA BE A CHALLENGE.
10-12

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

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I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I PLACED IT IN "USED APPLIANCES."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 That guy's
4 Big wind
8 Island near Java
12 Packed away
13 Computer brand
14 Wicked
15 Jumping game
17 Defeat
18 Sidewalk eatery
19 Staffers
20 Wear down
22 Foreshadow
24 Herbal drinks
25 Garbage dump
29 Sit-up targets
30 Buenos —
31 Museum-funding org.
32 Library fines
34 Large amount
35 Guns the engine
36 Treat as a god
37 "Hogwash!"
40 PETA concerns
41 Tarzan's clique
42 Speed demon's attribute
46 Give a hoot
47 Fill fully
48 Fan's cry
49 Historic periods
50 Union payment
51 Firmament

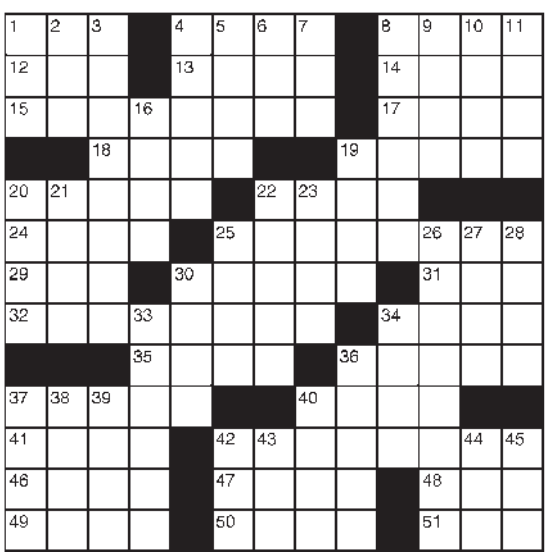
DOWN

1 "2001" computer
2 Mineral suffix
3 Shoreline
4 Blunder
5 Farm unit
6 Sign before Virgo
7 Work unit
8 Conviction
9 Eager
10 Grown-up nits
11 Sorts
16 Cushions
19 Tosses in
20 Listending abbr.
21 Ms. McEntire
22 Exposes
23 Singles
25 Schreiber of "Ray Donovan"
26 Cutting teeth
27 Piece of lettuce
28 — Godiva
30 Not many
33 Deletes
34 Feudal slave
36 Ranch visitors
37 Runner's tempo
38 Practice pugilism
39 Wife of Zeus
40 Kismet
42 "Acid"
43 Vichy water
44 Sturdy tree
45 Your

Solution time: 25 mins.

F	D	A	M	■	■	M	C	D	■	A	T	A	?
G	U	R	U	■	■	A	A	A	■	G	A	I	A
A	D	O	S	■	■	U	R	N	■	F	N	I	?
D	E	N	T	A	I	■	G	A	N	G	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	B	S	C	I	U	¯	F	I	Y	■
O	V	F	N	S	■	P	¯	G	■	I	I	V	■
■	O	N	S	■	C	A	D	■	A	O	N	F	■
G	O	V	■	A	R	R	■	B	U	S	T	S	■
A	M	E	N	T	O	T	H	A	¯	■	■	■	■
■	■	_	I	L	A	■	A	S	H	R	A	M	■
I	R	O	N	■	T	I	L	■	O	H	I	O	■
C	A	P	E	■	I	N	E	■	R	E	M	O	■
E	W	E	R	■	A	N	N	■	S	A	S	S	■

Yesterday's answer 10-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Josh Hutcherson, 26; Tyler Blackburn, 32; Bode Miller, 41; Hugh Jackman, 50.

Happy Birthday: Don't give in to moodiness or demands. Focus on the best way to make your life better. Consider your current residence and whether it's in your best interest to hang on to what you've got or to let it go and move on. Change requires time and energy, and it's up to you to decide how to utilize your talents. Your numbers are 2, 10, 19, 24, 28, 33, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Go over personal papers carefully, or you will miss an important document that needs to be rectified. Rely on what you know and what you can do, not what others promise. If a job needs to be done, do it yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't feel you have to do everything in record-breaking time. Slow down and get things right the first time. Your patience and astute sense of what's important will compensate for the amount of time it takes you to be successful. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Use your emotional insight to your advantage. Act on impulse and make your point heard. Don't let others take advantage of you or get away with something that will affect you negatively. Be the one to take control and show enthusiasm. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Explore your options and try something unique. Your charm will attract people who have something interesting to offer. A proposal will give you something to think about. Positive change is heading your way; romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't listen to someone who makes poor choices and is argumentative. Align yourself with people who are helpful, who encourage you to do your best and who want to see you make positive personal changes. Say no to indulgent behavior. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A change is heading your way. Short trips, conversations and listening to what others have to offer will encourage you to take care of pending matters in order to clear the path for new beginnings. A romantic evening will enhance your life. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Deal with people who have the potential to stand in your way or slow you down. Make your intentions and plans clear, and rearrange your schedule to fit your needs. Someone from your past will offer interesting information. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Let charm be your calling card. If you get into an argument, it will lead to a stalemate, not progress. Alternative means and methods will bring good results if they offer a little something for those who get involved in your plan. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Doing a little extra will go a long way. Tidy up loose ends before you take off or move on to pleasurable pastimes. Temptation can lead to mistakes if you get involved with someone who tends to be excessive. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* An unusual offer will spark your curiosity. Take a closer look, and you'll discover something that can help you with something you've wanted to do for some time. Reconnecting with someone from your past will help you find a missing link. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Look for a positive outlet. Refuse to associate with someone who is looking for a fight or trying to tempt you. A problem with a friend, relative or peer will result in an unexpected change of heart. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Keep your options open and don't let your emotions take over. A worthwhile deal shouldn't be overlooked for unrealistic reasons. Negotiate fairly, and you will get good results. A celebration will bring you closer to someone you love. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, determined and aggressive. You are engaging and impulsive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2			1			8	
			8		7			
		4				1		
	8			5		3		2
7								5
	9			7		6		4
		6					4	
				2		1		
	4				5			9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/12

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	8	1	9	7	3	6	5	4
3	6	9	5	4	8	7	2	1
4	7	5	6	2	1	3	8	9
8	1	2	4	6	9	5	7	3
5	3	4	7	8	2	9	1	6
7	9	6	1	3	5	8	4	2
6	2	3	8	5	4	1	9	7
1	4	8	3	9	7	2	6	5
9	5	7	2	1	6	4	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

RIBFESTS **Solution: 7 letters**

F	A	M	I	L	Y	N	E	K	C	I	H	C	B	P
U	V	E	A	L	R	C	Y	V	A	R	G	O	U	O
N	O	G	N	I	S	S	E	R	D	O	N	L	R	U
N	R	A	B	R	S	C	J	E	D	I	L	E	G	T
E	S	S	U	G	U	U	Z	T	O	E	O	S	E	I
L	K	R	N	A	I	A	O	N	D	B	B	L	R	N
C	E	I	S	C	L	H	R	P	C	A	R	A	K	E
A	W	D	E	G	B	I	O	I	C	N	I	W	K	A
K	E	E	G	E	N	R	S	O	O	D	S	E	A	M
E	R	S	A	G	K	U	N	E	O	S	K	T	E	O
G	S	N	S	E	M	A	G	L	K	A	E	A	T	R
D	S	L	U	N	C	H	Z	Z	M	A	T	N	S	A
U	O	L	A	U	N	N	A	Z	M	S	N	R	O	C
J	D	T	S	A	E	F	O	I	I	F	F	E	E	B
B	A	R	B	E	C	U	E	S	F	P	R	I	Z	E

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Annual, Aroma, Bacon, Bands, Barbecue, Barn, Beans, Beef, Bone, Brisket, Buns, Burger, Chicken, Coleslaw, Cook, Corn, Dressing, Family, Feast, Funnel Cake, Games, Glazed, Gravy, Grill, Hot Dog, Judge, Juice, Lunch, Make, Meats, Music, Onion Rings, Pizza, Poutine, Prize, Pulled Pork, Ribs, Rides, Sauce, Sausage, Sizzle, Skewers, Soda, Steak, Team, Veal, Wings

Yesterday's Answer: Businesswoman

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Evelyn Singa
Gualo Rai (Ironwood)
Telephone: 233-5678

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of: C.J.W.T. Minor Child
By: Evelyn M. Singa Petitioner(s)

FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0269

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 22nd day of 2018 at 9:00am in Courtroom, before Honorable Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 11th day of October, 2018.

/s/ By Patrick V. Diaz,
Deputy Clerk of Court

WHATZIT Solution: Right on cue

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US moves closer to World Cup qualification

AP
In this April 5, 2018 file photo, United States' Alex Morgan (13) shoots past Mexico's Bianca Sierra (3) during the first half of an international friendly soccer match in Jacksonville, Fla.

CARY, N.C. (AP)—The United States is rolling in pursuit of another berth in the Women's World Cup.

Rose Lavelle and Alex Morgan scored two goals apiece to help the U.S. women beat Trinidad and Tobago, 7-0, on Wednesday night in the World Cup qualifying tournament.

Tobin Heath added a goal and two assists for the United States, which led 4-0 at halftime.

Ranked No. 1 in the world, the United States advances to the CONCACAF Women's Championship semifinals in Frisco, Texas, on Sunday. The U.S. cruised through round-robin play in Group A with a 3-0 record, outscoring its opponents 18-0.

"This was about building momentum," U.S. coach Jill Ellis said. "This was a good way to finish our group stage. Now the focus shifts to qualifying."

The United States scored three goals in a four-minute span late in the first half to pull away from Trinidad and Tobago, which finished 0-3 in the group stage.

It was a result that spoke to the huge gap between the U.S. men's and women's national team programs. The American men lost to Trinidad and Tobago, at the time the world's 99th-ranked team, on Oct. 10 last year to miss out on qualifying for the World Cup.

The U.S. women are the defending World Cup champions, having beaten Japan in the final in 2015.

"I can't see anyone beating them in the near future because they are so deep," Trinidad and Tobago coach Shawn Cooper said.

The U.S. women outshot injury-depleted Trinidad and Tobago 59-0 and had an 18-0 advantage in corner kicks.

They did not allow a shot in the first half of any of their three games in group play.

"I think the awesome thing is we know that we still haven't reached our full potential," Lavelle said. "I think that's really exciting going into the next game. We just want to build on this and play even better than we did this game."

With steady rain falling, Lavelle scored on a left-footed blast from outside the penalty area in the 41st minute to give the U.S. a 2-0 lead. She scored again less than 90 seconds later, and Crystal Dunn added another goal just before halftime.

Lavelle fell awkwardly to the turf after colliding with a defender as she scored her second goal, and she did not play in the second half. Ellis said the substitution for Lavelle, who is still working her way back from a hamstring injury, was planned.

"I'm good," Lavelle said. "I am sturdy."

Morgan had her second multi-goal game in a week and the 25th in her international career.

The U.S. knew before the game that it had clinched its spot in the semifinals. Trinidad and Tobago had already been eliminated after losses to Panama and Mexico.

The United States changed nine members of its starting lineup for the second consecutive match, switching back to the starting 11 it used in its tournament opener against Mexico.

The U.S. extended its unbeaten streak to 24 matches and improved to 11-0-0 all time against Trinidad and Tobago.

The United States will be joined in the CONCACAF semifinals by Panama, which finished second in Group A, and two qualifiers from Group B, which includes Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba and Jamaica.

The winners of Sunday's two semifinal matches and the third-place match on Oct. 17 will qualify for the World Cup in France. The fourth-place finisher will take on Argentina in a two-game playoff for a berth in the tournament.

Red Sox not intimidated by mighty Astros

BOSTON—The Boston Red Sox, who returned home in the wee hours Wednesday after their after-hours party at Yankee Stadium, celebrating the AL Division Series championship over their storied rival New York Yankees, woke up and braced themselves for the sobering news.

The preliminaries are over. If they are going to reach the World Series, winning for the fourth time in 15 years, they're going to have to take on the heavyweight champs next.

Yep, the mighty Houston Astros, winners of last year's World Series, who may even be better than a year ago.

The Red Sox insist they're confident, and, yes, may have to change their music selection. It's silly to play Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York," mocking the Yankees, once they get to Houston. They may have to go country and change to "Deep in the Heart of Texas," the song played at every Astros game.

No matter what song they choose, the Red Sox are strutting into the series with bravado, their victory total now at 111 games, and a Texas-sized chip on their shoulders. They killed off the Yankees. Now, they're seeking revenge on the Astros, the team that ended their season a year ago when they won the AL Division Series in four games.

Not many outside Boston's clubhouse are giving them a chance to win, almost like the Yankees series when they were tied at one game, and all the Red Sox heard was that they were done.

"A lot of guys doubted us," Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts said. "I turned on the TV, and everything is, 'Yankees in 4.' I'm like, 'What is going on? How can we have 108 wins, and they're like the Yankees are going to win in four?' I don't understand."

This is a team that won more games than any team in baseball, the most in franchise history, and some folks are treating it as if it's no more significant than winning the Grapefruit League title in spring training.

"I think the media, from the first day of spring training, was pretty negative, even though we won the division two years in a row," Red Sox co-owner John Henry said. "[We] just needed to be a little more aggressive in our approach, because these guys are so talented, they just needed somebody to say, 'Go get 'em.'

"And they went and got them this year, all year long."

The Red Sox, under rookie manager Alex Cora, certainly did just that, and he was a mastermind in their four-game series victory over the Yankees, making bold and daring moves that paid off every time.

Cora even took the ultimate gamble in Tuesday's 4-3 victory when he brought in ace Chris Sale in the eighth inning. If Sale struggled, or the Red Sox lost the game, they were done. Sale was scheduled to pitch in Game 5, and after pitching only 17 innings in the final two months of the season with an inflamed shoulder, just how long could he possibly have lasted in the elimination game?

"I was ready to find out," Sale said.

We'll never have to know.

Sale, who pitched a 1-2-3 eighth inning, is now ready for his own revenge. Last year was his first postseason, and it was ugly. He started one game, pitched in relief in another, and lost them both. He went home yielding an ugly 8.38 ERA, permitting four homers in just 9 2/3 innings.

Moustakas brings pivotal playoff experience

MILWAUKEE (AP) — It sounds, at first, like a long, drawn out "Booooo!"

But look at the name on the scoreboard and it becomes apparent what fans at Miller Park are really chanting.

"Mooooose!"

Mike Moustakas has been a hit with fans and teammates with the Milwaukee Brewers since being acquired from the Kansas City Royals two-plus months ago. They appreciate his solid third base defense, and his left-handed power stroke was key in getting Milwaukee through the NL Division Series. In the clubhouse, his focused demeanor and extensive postseason experience have made him a source of steadiness for a club playing in the postseason for the first time since 2011.

"Amazing, amazing. He's a great teammate," said utility man Hernan Perez, who has a locker near Moustakas. "He's been in this situation."

Moustakas and current Brewers center fielder Lorenzo Cain helped Kansas City reach the World Series twice, including their championship run in 2015. Moustakas is one step away from a Series return with Milwaukee. Game 1 of the NL Championship Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers is Friday night at Miller Park.

Moustakas hit .364 in a three-game sweep of the Colorado Rockies in the NLDS with two RBIs. He had a game-ending, two-out RBI single in the 10th inning in Game 1 and an RBI single in eighth inning of Game 2 to help break open what had been a 1-0 game.

A cool hand in tense moments. Exactly what Milwaukee had in mind for its midseason acquisition.

"The more experience that you can gain, the better off you're going to be," Moustakas said before a team workout on Wednesday.

Overall, Moustakas is hitting .234 with six homers and 17 RBIs in 34 games over eight postseason series.

"But his experience, it's important. It really is," manager Craig Counsell said last week. "Making sure we don't put the result ahead of the process in our at-bats, and I think Moose is doing a heck of a job of that."

His good friend Cain helped ease the transition to Milwaukee, but the Brewers also had to get creative to add Moustakas to the lineup, with Travis Shaw already on the team as the regular third baseman.

Someone had to move.

Shaw accepted a switch to second base, a new position and potentially awkward fit for the 230-pound slugger. The rationale was that the Brewers employ so many infield shifts, lining up at second wouldn't be a hard transition. Moustakas also volunteered to move over.

LeBron hits buzzer-beater, Lakers top Warriors

LAS VEGAS (AP)—It came in a preseason game, let's remember that. But as LeBron James sent an arcing shot high into the Las Vegas air on Wednesday night, Los Angeles Lakers fans were left fervently hoping that it was a sign of things to come.

With time running out in the first half of the Lakers' meeting with the Golden State Warriors at T-Mobile Arena, James produced a "moment," the kind of thing that only the greats manage to make look easy.

Klay Thompson missed a three-pointer for the Warriors with six seconds left in the second quarter. Javale McGee snared an unopposed rebound, then found James who had hustled his way to the left wing, just across mid-court.

These games count for nothing after all. There was no time left to make a move to the basket and all thoughts, understandably, seemed to turn to the locker room. Lakers teammate Brandon Ingram stopped moving. Thompson backed off, his arms at his sides.

But James had only one thing on his mind. Despite being 40 feet from the basket he heaved up a shot, extended his arm and watched it sink inevitably through the hoop.

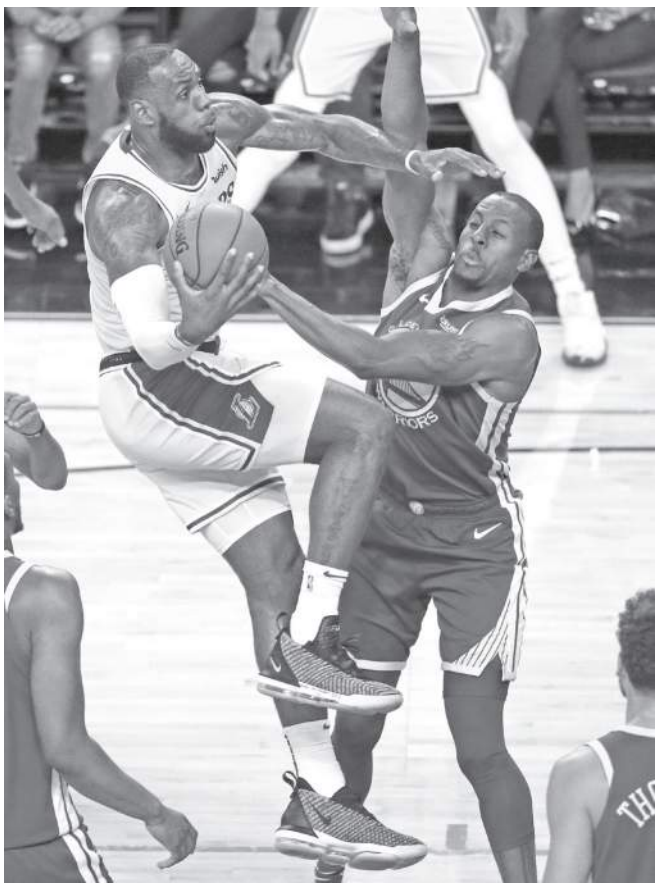
New colleague Kentavious Caldwell-Pope embraced him immediately. Lance Stephenson came in for a joyous hand slap and James responded with a wry smile that seemed to say: "there's more where that came from."

Lakerland certainly hopes so.

His shot gave the Lakers a 61-57 lead at the half. James played 18 minutes in the game, scoring 15 points and grabbing 10 rebounds in the Lakers' 123-113 win.

It was James' first game against the Warriors since last season's NBA Finals — when his second stint as a member of the Cleveland Cavaliers ended with Golden State sweeping its way to a second consecutive championship. But he downplayed the exhibition being any extension of his rivalry with the Warriors, or the rivalry between the California clubs.

"Preseason game," James said.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, left, is fouled by Golden State Warriors guard Andre Iguodala during the first half of an NBA preseason basketball game Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018, in Las Vegas.

As Butler drama lingers, Wolves aim for return to playoffs

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Last season, the Minnesota Timberwolves parlayed the arrival of Jimmy Butler into the franchise's first appearance in the playoffs in 14 years.

Butler, naturally, has been the focal point for Minnesota with the start of this season fast approaching, but in a most surprising and distracting way.

Butler's request for a trade has yet to be fulfilled. After three consecutive lackluster preseason performances by the Timberwolves, Butler joined practice on Wednesday and created quite a stir by verbally challenging teammates and executives during the session.

The opener at San Antonio is just a week away and coach Tom Thibodeau wants Butler to remain with Minnesota despite his adamant refusal to re-sign with the team before he can opt out of his contract next summer. So the possibility remains that the 29-year-old Butler would take the court for the Wolves with an awkward-at-best atmosphere surrounding their 30th season as a franchise.

Butler's stance about wanting to be elsewhere, belying his career-long bond with Thibodeau since their time together with the Chicago Bulls, still makes a deal the most likely outcome to a sideshow that has complicated the challenge the Wolves were already facing to return to the playoffs. The Western Conference competition has only stiffened, with the arrival of LeBron James in Los Angeles.

Tex Winter dead at 96

Meanwhile, Tex Winter, the innovative "Triangle Offense" pioneer who assisted Phil Jackson on NBA championship teams with the Chicago Bulls and Los Angeles Lakers, has died. He was 96.

Winter's family said he died Wednesday in Manhattan, where he began his coaching career at Kansas State in 1947 and led the Wildcats to two Final Fours and eight Big Seven/Eight titles as head coach from 1954-68.

"I learned so much from Coach Winter. He was a pioneer and a true student of the game," Michael Jordan said in a statement emailed to the Chicago Tribune. "His triangle offense was a huge part of our six championships with the Bulls. He was a tireless worker. Tex was always focused on details and preparation and a great teacher. I was lucky to play for him. My condolences to his family."

Former Lakers star Kobe Bryant called Winter a basketball genius "in every sense of the word."

"My mentor. I sat with Tex & watched every minute of every game during our 1st season together. He taught me how to study every detail," Bryant posted on Twitter.

Wizards 102, Pistons 97

John Wall scored 32 points, including a layup with 1:26 left that put Washington ahead for good.

Wall finished with nine assists and Bradley Beal scored 17 points for the Wizards. Andre Drummond led the Pistons with 17 points and 20 rebounds, and Blake Griffin added 16 points for Detroit.

Magic 102, Grizzlies 86

Jonathan Issac and Aaron Gordon each scored 15 points for Orlando.

Nikola Vucevic grabbed 11 rebounds and Melvin Frazier Jr. scored 10 points for the Magic. Mike Conley scored a game-high 24 points for the Grizzlies, shooting 9 for 14.

Heat 140, Pelicans 128

Bam Adebayo scored 26 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, and Josh Richardson scored 25 for Miami—which set a franchise record for preseason points in a game.

Derrick Jones Jr., back from a sore shoulder, scored 18 for Miami. Julius Randle led New Orleans with 23 points.

Hawks 130, Spurs 127

Rookie guard Trae Young connected on a 3-pointer — from the Georgia Tech logo near midcourt — with 2.2 seconds left to send Atlanta to the win.

Taurean Prince had 25 points for the Hawks, and Young finished with 22. Rudy Gay led all scorers with 28 for San Antonio, on a 10-for-15 shooting night.

Raptors 118, Nets 91

In Montreal, Toronto point guard Kyle Lowry got ejected in the third quarter for getting two technicals.

Danny Green scored 22 points and Kawhi Leonard had 11 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for Toronto. Jarrett Allen led the Nets with 24 points.

Bulls 104, Pacers 89

Justin Holiday and Zach LaVine scored 22 points apiece to lead Chicago.

Thaddeus Young, who missed Indiana's first three preseason games due to a foot injury, made 8 of 12 from the field and finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds in 29 minutes.

Trail Blazers 116, Suns 83

Jake Layman scored 28 points for Portland on 10-of-14 shooting, including 5 of 7 from 3-point range.

Josh Jackson led Phoenix with 13 points and Richaun Holmes added 12.

Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum (coach's decision) did not play. Evan Turner (shoulder), Gary Trent Jr. (quadriceps) and Moe Harkless (ankle) — a last-second scratch —missed the game due to injury.

Tokyo Olympics: Costs hit almost $25B, may go higher

TOKYO (AP)—The price tag keeps soaring for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics despite local organizers and the International Olympic Committee saying that spending is being cut.

A report just released by the national government's Board of Audit shows Japan is likely to spend $25 billion to prepare the games, and the final number could go even higher.

This is nearly a four-fold increase over Tokyo's winning bid in 2013, which the report said projected costs of 829 billion yen, or $7.3 billion at the current exchange rate of 113 yen to the dollar.

Tracking Tokyo costs is getting more difficult as work speeds up, deadlines near, and disputes arise about what are—and what are not—Olympic expenses. Complicated accounting also makes it difficult to figure out who pays for what, and who profits.

"It's the most amazing thing that the Olympic games are the only type of megaproject to always exceed their budget," Bent Flyvberg, an authority on Olympic budgeting, said in explaining his research: "The Oxford Olympics Study 2016."

Flyvberg said the study failed to "find even one" Olympics that came in on or below budget.

Tokyo is a case study.

In December, the Tokyo organizing committee said the Olympic budget was 1.35 trillion yen, or about $12 billion.

This consisted of equal contributions of 600 billion yen ($5.3 billion) from the organizing committee and the Tokyo metropolitan government, with another 150 billion yen ($1.3 billion) coming from the national government.

But a month later, Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike said the city needed to chip in an added 810 billion yen ($7.2 billion) "for projects directly and indirectly related to the games." She said this included building barrier-free facilities for Paralympic athletes, training programs for volunteers, and advertising and tourism plans.

AP

In this Aug. 21, 2016 file photo, Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike takes the Olympic flag on stage during the closing ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

This raised the overall costs to 2.16 trillion yen, or about $19.1 billion.

The IOC and local organizers dispute these are Olympic expenses, describing them as "regular administrative costs" that fall "outside the overall games budget."

Flyvberg credited organizers of recent Olympics with trying to control costs, but tight Olympic deadlines make it difficult. Other large building projects can be pushed back a few months. Not the Olympics.

He also said it was inefficient for different cities to keep organizing the games.

"All you can do when problems begin—and problems always begin on projects of this size—is to throw more money at the project," Flyvberg said.

Another Tokyo cost increase popped up a few days ago.

A 178-page report by the Board of Audit said the national government's share of spending had increased to 801 billion yen ($7.1 billion) from the $1.3 billion estimated back in December.

This brings total spending to 2.81 trillion yen, or just under $25 billion, with suggestions it could reach 3 trillion when the games open in just under two years.

The report said "a large amount of spending was expected to continue after 2018 leading up to the event."

The report urged organizers, the Tokyo city government, central government, and local agencies to increase transparency.

Brannon's, 9 Eleven Wild Boyz rule Bud Cup

Brannon's Jam Shooters and 9 Eleven Wild Boyz reigned supreme in the Saipan Billiards Association 8-Ball League Budweiser Cup.

9 Eleven Wild Boyz took the Tuesday League crown after beating IT&E Amari Destroyers in the finals last week, 9-7. Patrick Cepeda, Ray Matsunaga, Randy Sablan, Bill Cepeda, and Shane Quitugua suited up for the champion team, while Nolan Cultura, Cesar Sangalang, Rolly Villanueva, and Gian Flores played for the Destroyers.

The Destroyers made it to the title match after eliminating Marianas Water, 9-6, and regular season winner Docomo Hustlers, 9-4. 9 Eleven Wild Boyz, on the other hand, ousted Amari's Masters Touch, 9-7, and Brannon's Builders, 8-2, to book a finals berth.

In the Thursday League finals, Brannon's Jam Shooters came out on top against Sands Team SCS, 9-7. Lito and Albert Pangelinan gave Brannon's the decisive wins in the singles 8-ball after topping Toto Bigcas and Roy Wu. Joining Lito and Albert on the winning squad were Senen Pangilinan and Roger Espiritu.

Brannon's Jam Shooters moved into the finals after knocking out 9 Eleven MJD Warriors, 8-4, and 9 Eleven Black Ball, 9-8. Sands Team SCS secured the other finals spot following its victories over 9 Eleven Titans. 9-8, and Amari's Intensity, 9-8. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players and supporters of 9 Eleven Wild Boyz pose for a photo after their game in the Tuesday League division of the Saipan Billiards Association 8-Ball Budweiser Cup last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brannon's Jam Shooters players gather for a photo after beating Sands Team SCS in the Thursday League finals of the Saipan Billiards Association 8-Ball Budweiser Cup last week.

PACIFIC

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Kensington with 20, 14, and 10, respectively.

In other results, Armatech escaped with a 69-65 double overtime win over Imperial Pacific International in the second game.

While Armatech pushed its record to 2-2 after the victory, IPI suffered its fourth straight loss of the season and is still winless.

Stephen Tolosa scored all five of Armatech's points in the first overtime, while June Alipio Jr. made the team's last 8 markers in regulation. In the second overtime, five different players hit the board for Armatech.

Alipio finished with 18 points, while Renren Gaviola, Bernard Montano, and Tolosa contributed 16, 11, and 9, respectively.

"We came out victorious because of our teamwork, and [because] our tenacity and focus were there," said player-coach Amor Zapanta, who made a free throw that sealed it for Armatech.

Aljonmar led IPI's losing cause with his 18 points, while Henry Cruzada added 16.

First Game

Pacific Postal 68 — G. Pineda 28, Matos 10, J. Pineda 8, Usi 8, Brocano 5, Odicta 5, Abanlog 4.

Kensington 62 — Arellano 20, Alipio 14, Sharry 10, Manzano 4, Marcelo 4, Webster 3, Lansang 4, De Guzman 1.

Scoring by quarters: 10-10, 22-23, 43-38, 68-62.

Second Game

Armatech 69 — Alipio 18, Gaviola 16, Montano 11, Tolosa 9, Asuhan 5, Valencia 2, Malasarte 4, Zapanta 4.

IPI 65 — Aljonmar 18, Cruzada 16, Barnales 9, Opchimar 9, Oduina 4, Saint 4.

Scoring by quarters: 14-14, 35-33 41-40, 54-54, 63-63 (1OT), 69-65 (2OT).

WATER

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in open water along with other Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan members.

Thompson and the rest of Saipan Swim Club swimmers are also practicing in the ocean and hopes to get the pool reopened soon, as they need to train for off-island tournaments.

"For us swimmers coming from the small island of Saipan, we are ambassadors. Training for these prestigious competitions is something our team does not take lightly. Recently, our programs were thrown an obstacle, resolving in our local swim teams not being able to swim at our pool. There may be other places we can practice in, but no matter how we try to look on the bright side or not, we do acknowledge the fact that there is no place like our 50-meter pool. Although this limitation is something our swimmers face, we are still trying our hardest in swim practice in the ocean. We are aware that swimming in the ocean is very different from swimming in the pool, but we all aim for the goal of being able to represent our island, something which is considered a high honor. We will continue putting in our very best effort in practice, and hope that we get our facility reinstated," Thompson said.

Lennosuke echoed Thompson's sentiments and although they remained resilient practicing in the ocean, they definitely need help to have the pool back.

"It is sad that the pool has closed, but it won't stop us swimmers from pursuing our dreams even though we have a bit of a disadvantage. I believe that the people of the CNMI will help us build up the sport because it has helped me become who I am and I believe swimming could do so much more for this island. The team is building up in creating better athletes, but we need help—we need a pool," he said.

GSM

From Page 32

one, 5-6, as three of its first four batters at the top of the order reached. Lorenzo Sebaklim scored off a fielder's choice and pinch-runner Tom Camacho and Manny Sablan on walks. Franco Nakamura was one of the only three GSM batter who missed rounding the bases, but he made the big hit in the pivotal inning, blasting a double that brought Vince Cepeda and Diego Camacho home. Earlier, Kevin Kapileo stole home to tie the match, 6-6.

The Mariners got majority of their runs at the bottom of the sixth, posting three earned and one each off a passed ball and wild pitch. The other run was recorded in the seventh inning with Jerry Kintol reaching off a passed ball to give the Mariners a 6-2 advantage.

GSM recorded the two runs in the third inning with Nakamura scoring off a wild pitch and Sebaklim from the Mariners' error. Down, but definitely not out, GSM made the move at the top of the ninth and stole the driver's seat. GSM then completed the com-from-behind win after forcing the Mariners to 1-2-3 at the bottom of the last inning. Closer Roy Celis struck out leadoff batter Herman Kintol, while K.J. Deleon Guerrero went down on a 5-3 putout play, and Jerry Kintol was called for the final out, as Byron Kaipat beat him to the bag after the latter caught a pass from Celis.

With GSM stealing Game 1, it had a chance to close out the short series last night, while the Mariners were in a must win situation yesterday. Victor of the GSM-Mariners showdown will face the Chalan Kanoa Bears in a best-of-five title series. The Bears made it to the finals after sweeping and dethroning the Aces.

2018 Marianas Cup

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The starters of the CNMI Women's U19 National Team pose for a photo before playing against Guam in the 2018 Marianas Cup last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. The CNMI won, 3-2.

Members of Guam's starting unit gather for a photo before challenging the CNMI.

The CNMI's Therize Milllare, left, steps in to steal the ball from Guam's Richelle Ragadio.

The CNMI's Gillian Villagomez, left, beats Abigail San Gil to the ball.

The CNMI's Guine Borja, right, tries to get away from Guam defenders.

KSPN's Bob Coldeen, right, takes video footage of the CNMI Women's U19 National Team after its victory over Guam.

CNMI assistant coach Jimmy Tang gives pointers to the players.

CNMI coach Luen Khen Koo, left, gestures to his players while Therize Millare prepares to do the throw-in.

US moves closer to World Cup qualification

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

LeBron hits buzzer-beater, Lakers top Warriors

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Water in pool gets murky

KEVIN CALIBO
Water in the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool has started to get murky, nearly two weeks after its closure.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The water at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool has started to get murky and it could get worse, as reopening of the facility may not happen anytime soon.

It's been nearly two weeks since the 50-meter pool closed and it could remain that way, as a company that may take over the operation and maintenance of the facility has to go through the regular process to legalize its claim on the property. *Saipan Tribune* learned that a company, not Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, which was earlier allowed to manage Mariana Resort and other facilities under Kan Pacific, has expressed interest with the lone Olympic-size pool in the CNMI. However, that company needs to turn in a request for proposal and submission and approval would take time—which the pool does not have, as it will deteriorate further without proper maintenance.

Saipan Tribune checked the facility yesterday afternoon and though water is still running in the eight-lane pool, it has turned dark, not the usual bluish color when proper treatment is done.

Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Association president John Hirsh, meanwhile, confirmed that they haven't heard anything from the government as to the status of the pool after turning over a copy of signatures of the online campaign to keep the facility open.

Swimmers Juhn Tenorio, Nelson Batallones, David Boyer Lennosuke Suzuki, and Jinju Thompson, Hirsh, and Dolphin Club Saipan's Pete Perez turned in the signed petition to John Oliver Gonzalez, the chief of staff of Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, last week. The young swimmers reiterated the urgent need to reopen the pool.

"For swimmers to recover from one week of no practice is about three weeks to one month and our season has already begun last month and we have big competitions coming up this year. While our rival islands are practicing, we are not. We will not be prepared for all of these big meets," said Tenorio, who is forced to train

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Pacific Postal stuns Kensington; Armatech survives 2OT

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Pacific Postal Plus dealt Kensington Hotel its first loss after pulling off an upset, 68-62, during the curtain-raiser in the IT&E Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 Mixed Masters Brotherhood Basketball League last Wednesday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Kensington boasted an undefeated record of 3-0 before facing Pacific Postal, which improved to an even 2-2 mark after stunning its opponent.

The match was close throughout the game, but Pacific Postal ultimately came out on top because of its stiff zone defense.

"We clamped down on defense. We stuck to our zone defense because they have many big players and we just had to hustle in the middle," player coach Dennis Vallo said.

Gener Pineda carried much of the scoring load for Pacific Postal with his 28 points. John Matos contributed with 10 points, while Jestoni Pineda and Rommel Usi chipped in with 8 apiece with the latter dropping 6 of his total output in the fourth period.

Meanwhile, Arnold Arellano, June Alipio Sr., and Larry Sharry each scored in double figures for

See PACIFIC on Page 30

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Armatech's Amor Zapata scans the floor before making a move during their game against Imperial Pacific International in the IT&E Emon Lodge caging last Wednesday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

GSM rallies to win semis opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Game 1 of the remaining semis series in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League belonged to Go See Mark after all.

The opener of the best-of-three affair was re-played last Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield with GSM rallying for an 8-6 victory over the Mariners. Game 1 originally took place last Monday with GSM winning, 14-10, but the Mariners placed the match under protest after the former used a wrong player at leftfield. League organizers discussed the protest and decided to re-play the whole match, instead of just starting it at the bottom of the seventh when GSM committed the violation and it was ahead, 12-7.

GSM went on to still take the opener, thanks to a six-run top of the ninth inning.

The last inning began with GSM staring a 2-6 deficit. The No. 2 seed then moved within

See GSM on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Go See Mark's Lorenzo Sebaklim warms up for Game 2 of their semis series against the Mariners in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.